

## Salt of the Street Judicial Branch

### Court of Opinion

#### Dissenting Opinion:

#### Feeling bad about Minecraft

Okay, so last week Donovan and I talked about this little video game called Minecraft. Now, if you aren't familiar with the epic phenomenon of my generation that is Minecraft, unfortunately I won't take the time to fill you in now, sorry you'll just have to check out episode 5 of the podcast. If you haven't had a chance to get to it yet that's ok, just literally drop what your doing and plug into episode 5 of the Salt of the Streets Podcast and get filled in. For those of you deep into the conversation already you'll know that I equated the creative genius platform known as Minecraft to my favorite childhood toys, LEGO! In this weeks dissent I am going to explore why I believe it's a good thing to play a game as silly or 'pointless' as Minecraft.

First and foremost, you should all know that I believe whole heartedly that the key (one of many anyway) to long life is staying young at heart. Now don't take that the wrong way, I'm not suggesting we all act like petulant children and quit carrying out our adult responsibilities. Of course not, that would be stupid. Regardless of what your situation is we all have adult responsibilities to take care of, simply trying to balance your work life and your personal life can be hard enough to figure out. Taking

the time to find a past time you enjoy or a hobby you can afford might seem completely out of the question. Add in the advent of Netflix, HBO Now, Amazon Prime and Hulu on top of regular old school cable TV (we'll talk about that last one another time) and I'm surprised we don't all just sit on the couch and watch TV. It's not like there's a lack of good quality entertainment out there, personally I feel like there is just too much good stuff to possibly fit in, there's only so many hours in the day after all. Please note, I am in no way disparaging watching TV, I've just recently discovered that it can be similar to a blackhole. It just pulls you in, you know that feeling, when that episode on Netflix just finished with an epic cliff-hanger and all you have to do is press a button and you'll be back into it. It's easy to do and it can be a lot of fun sometimes. Numbers range depending on which study you look at, but let's just say that the amount of time spent watching TV is insane when you actually see some [numbers](#). OK that's officially too much TV talk, let's get back to the subject at hand, Minecraft...

The one thing you need to know about Minecraft is that is open to almost limitless creativity. Just take a minute to check out some of these [amazing creations](#) people came up with. The amount of effort put forth to create these types of projects is evident in the absolute attention to detail. It

takes steadfast dedication to complete something like those creations above. Now just think about that for a moment and ask yourself if you could do that. Could you devote yourself to one long term task? Could you make time, every day, to slowly complete a task that could take you years to finish? I'll tell you who does:

Authors, Painters, Sculptors, Filmmakers, Videogame designers, People who save up and build their own houses and just about every single economically successful person on the planet.

Now don't misunderstand, I'm not saying that if you play Minecraft and build cool stuff you'll grow-up to be rich and famous. I am saying that the ability to come up with an idea or a GOAL that requires a lot of hard work and dedication, and then work a little every day to make that thing happen is a life skill all those successful people have in common. It's called delayed gratification and in today's world, it's a skill that's becoming less common. I myself am no saint when it comes to that. I am as guilty as the next person when it comes to paying the extra money for next day shipping for no other reason than I just want it, now, like right now. It may sound silly to say but in this new world of instant gratification, Minecraft just may be the way certain people learn that type of skill. This logic applies to so many more aspects of life. I'm sure we've all heard about the military looking into the gaming community for people with high hand-eye coordination. Not to mention the insane pathways available to people online with those types of skills, Twitch for example. People actually making

a living by playing video games online, of course there's a million other things that go into making a living off of video games but the point holds true. There are literally people right now that make a living online playing Minecraft and other games, it can be big business too.

So long story short! If you're someone who plays a little Minecraft, don't feel guilty about it. Be proud that you're staying young at heart.