

Strength in Numbers

2024 | LESSONS FROM WRITING A MASTER'S THESIS AS A TEAM



Forming a Band

- Early introduction seemed to suggest three authors possible.
- Started planning together as a team.
- We wanted to do something innovative and large-scale.
- Later lectures made no mention of trios. Only singles or pairs.
- “Explain why two people is not enough”
Teacher Education Coordinator
- One month later:
“It’s okay if you find a willing supervisor”
- Our assigned supervisor, Joyce Kling, concerned about group cohesion and altered requirements...
...but willing: “for the time being it is a ‘go’”

Case: Asynchronous collaborative writing

- Three writers: Sandy, Jennie, and Kellie
- Sandy and Jennie are in Denmark, Kellie is in the UK
- Sandy and Jennie have produced many text collaboratively, but they have never worked with Kellie before
- Task: A chapter for an edited book
- Topic of the edited book: ‘Englishization of Higher Education in Europe’

Working as a pair

- If you write as a pair, there are additional demands on the research produced:
 - Length is slightly longer (16,000 words)
 - The previous-research section should be more thorough
 - The data collection and/or analysis should amount to approximately double that of an individual project
 - Your supervisor can help with more guidance on what constitutes an appropriate scope for your research project

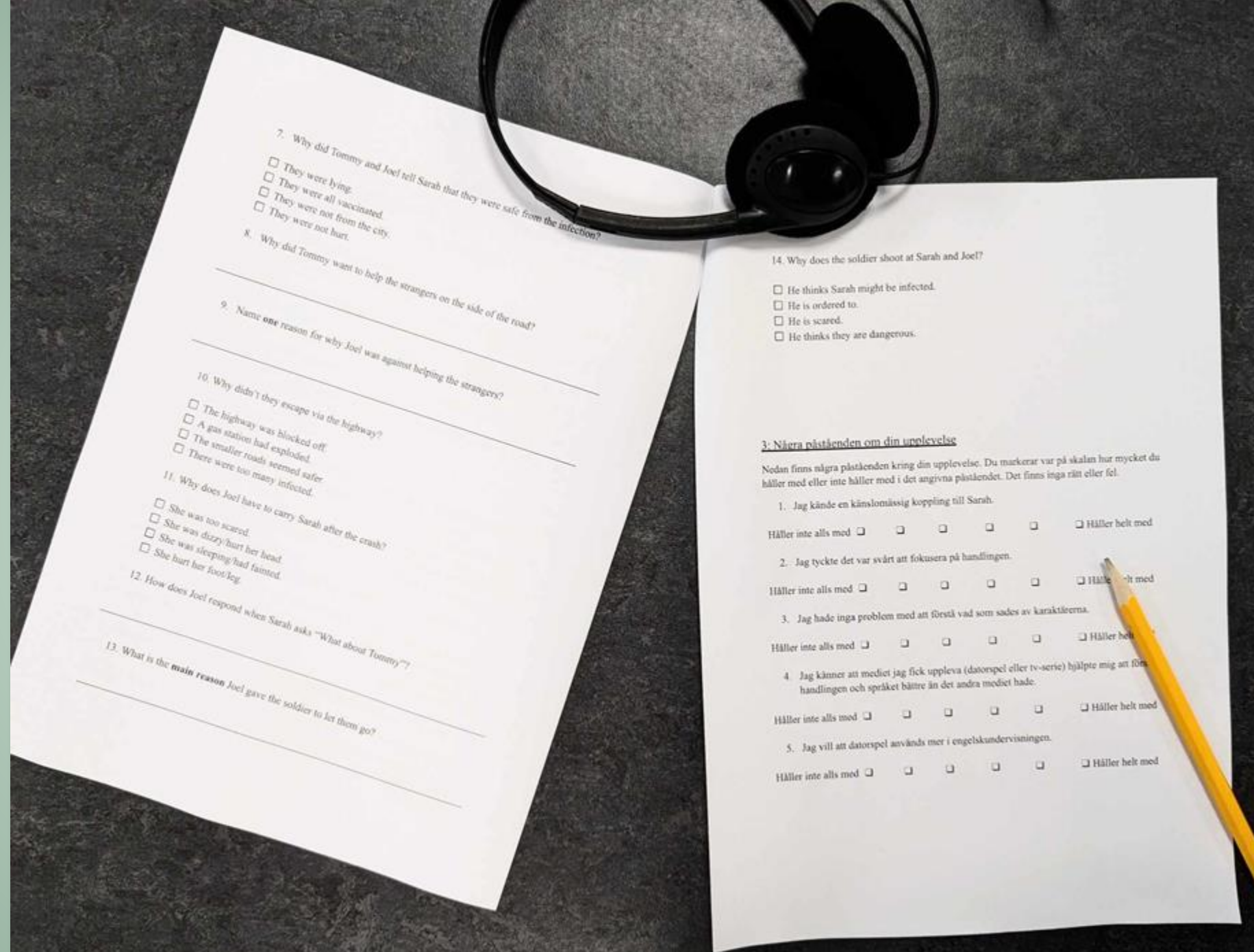
Forming a Plan

- Primary challenge: Material
 - What video game? Compared to what?
 - *The Last of Us*
- Secondary challenge: Methodology
 - Longitudinal or cross-sectional.
 - Observational or interventionist.
 - Strictly quantitative or mixed-methods.
- Tertiary challenge: Location
 - Reached out to our old schools and VFU schools.



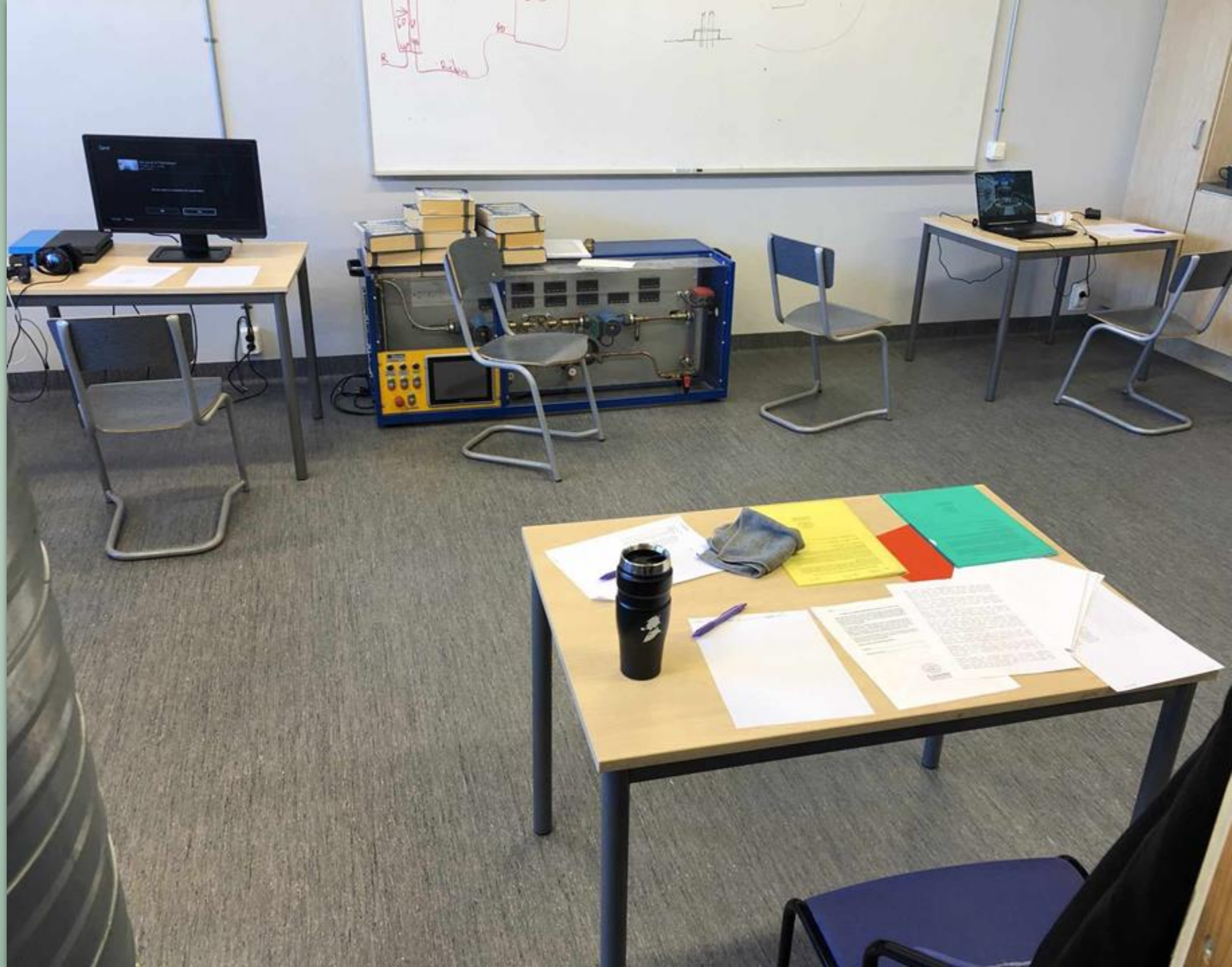
Logistics, Late nights & Drafts

- Created a “Book Circle”
- NAFS/National exams as inspiration for difficulty.
- Attitudinal survey for experience.
- Rotations, locations, manuscripts and physical copies to ensure reliability.



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Vecka	Mål	Deadlines	Timeline	Mån	Tis	Ons	Tor	Fre	Lor	Son
6	Sammanställ questionnaire Begin Introduction + Background + Method		Tor (9/2): Workshop 13-15	Lärarkontakt	KGK 13:00-16:00 Skapa en roadmap		Workshop 13:15-15:00 KGK 15:15-18:00 Sammanställ questionnaire Planera nästa v. schema?		Välförtjänad ledighet	Välförtjänad ledighet
7	Pilotstudie Finish Introduction + Background + Method Brief summary of discussion and analysis sections			Pilotstudie + Feedback		Läsa klart 2:a häckor Mata in citat	Skriva ut citaten till ett 30% utkast Skriva metod KGK 12:20-??	Skriva våra respektive kap. (Background + Theory + Methods Section)	Skriva våra respektive kap. (Background + Theory + Methods Section)	Skriva våra respektive kap. (Background + Theory + Methods Section)
8	Färdigställ 30% draft Skriv "manus" till studien	Fre (17/2): "Måltid" Mån (20/2): 30% Draft	(Sportlov) Fre (24/2): Seminarium	Klar med våra respektive kap. KGK på em: ~kl.12 Bli klar med 30% draft	Samling hos Anton 10:00 Inlämning av 30% draft 17:00	(Skriva manus till studien?)		Peer-Review Seminar 13-15	Välförtjänad ledighet	Välförtjänad ledighet
9	Insamling av data			Möte m. Joyce kl 16:00 I H428b (SOL)	KGK Innan rollspel: - Göra eventuella justering - Färdigställ manus för data	(S&A) Datainsamling Vipar: 9:50 - 11:10 Pauli: 10:05-11:15, 13:00-14:15	(Si) Datainsamling Vipar: 8:20 - 9:50, 10:30 - 11:30 (A&R) Pauli: 08:10-09:20, 09: 10:05-11:15	(Si) Datainsamling Vipar: 13:30 - 14:20 (A&R) Pauli: 09:40-10:55 13:20-14:30	Välförtjänad ledighet	Välförtjänad ledighet
10	Insamling av data			(Si&An) Datainsamling Vipar: 13:40 - 15:05 Pauli: 11:15-12:30	(Si&An) Datainsamling Vipar: 9:30 - 11:20	KGK 10:00	(Alla) Datainsamling Vipar: 8:20 - 9:50, 10:30 - 11:30	(Alla) Datainsamling Vipar: 10:00 - 11:30 KGK 11:30 - 13:30 13:30 - 14:20	Välförtjänad ledighet	Välförtjänad ledighet
11	Insamling av data (vid behov)				KGK 14:30	Datainsamling Spyken: 15:00-16:20	(S+R) Datainsamling Vipar: 10:30 - 11:30	(S+A) Datainsamling Vipar: 13:30 - 14:20 KGK 14:20-	Välförtjänad ledighet	Välförtjänad ledighet
12	Sammanställning av data Påbörja analysen Datainsamling Spyken	Fre (17/3): "Måltid" Mån (20/3): 70% Draft		(S) Datainsamling Vipar: 9:45-11:15 (4st) 13:40-15:05 (4st)	KGK 13:00	Digital KGK 16:00 Skicka in draft på kvällen till Joyce och peers.	Läsa Peer Uppsatser	Peer Review Meetings	Välförtjänad ledighet	Välförtjänad ledighet
13	Fortsätt analys (ROBERT BORTA SON-ONS, Jobbar på distans)		Möte med Joyce (runi den 31e) (Glöm inte skriva frågor inför mötet)	Datainsamling: Spyken (Anton, Simon) 11:25-12:15 Robert är borta.	Datainsamling: Spyken (Anton, Simon) 13:20-14:50 F23 Robert är borta.	Robert är borta.	Robert kommer hem. :)	Möte med Joyce (TBA)	Välförtjänad ledighet	Välförtjänad ledighet
14	Fortsätt analys		(Påsklov)		KGK 13:00					
15	Bli klar med analys		Tor (13/4): Seminarium		KGK 13:00					
16	Avslutning & Abstract									
17	Revidering av intro + bakgrund + metod									
18	Korrekturläsning (OwO)	Tis (2/5): 90% Draft	Fre (5/5- prel.): Seminarium Fre (25/5): Seminarium		90% Draft					
19	Justeringar efter feedback									
20	Debug						Kristifygare + Konvent	Kristifygare + Konvent	Välförtjänad ledighet Konvent	All-night long! Crunch!

Strength in numbers! Who is where
and who is doing what?

with TV series	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Likert 1	Likert 2	Likert 3	Likert 4	Likert 5
1 Sarah is Joel's daughter	2 He was working	3	4	1	3	Because they had a kid.	He wanted to keep sarah safe.	4	4	That they get her into safty than go back for him.	That they weren't infected.	2	4	1	5	4			
4 Joel is her dad.	2 He was stuck at work.	3	4	1	3	Because they had a kid.	They might be infected.	4	4	Joel says that Tommy is gonna be fine.	The main reason is that he has a kid.	2	3	1	6	5			
4 They are family, Joel is th	2 He was out working probably. an	3	4	1	3	They had kids.	He thought it was too risky.	1	4	He says that they will be back for him	They are not infected	2	5	1	6	5			
2 Father and daughter	2 Because of work	1	4	1	3	They had a child.	Because they havent seen what he	1	4	He didnt answer her.	They weemt infected.	2	1	2	6	6			
4 Father and daughter	2 He was at work	3	4	1	3	because they hade i kid	They could be infectid	3	4	He was coming	because they meay be infectid	1	1	3	3	3			
1 He is her dad.	2 Je was searching for a job.	3	4	1	3	They had a kid	others could help them	1	4	they c									
1 Joel is Sarah's dad	2 much to do at work	3	4	1	3	They had a kid	Joel said they they also had a kid (1	4	"We'n									
3 He's her dad.	2 He was working	1	4	1	1	Because they had a kid	because they had Sarah with them	1	4	They i									
3 Joel is Sarah's Dad	2 He was at work	3	4	1	1	They had more room in the	They might be infected.	3	4	He sa									
3 Joel is her dad.	2 Something to do with his job.	1	4	1	3	because they had a kid	They had to think of themselves fi	1	4	He sa									
3 Joel is Sarah's father	2 Because of work	3	4	1	3	Because they had a kid.	He could not trust that they were n	1	4	He re									
2 Father and daughter	2 He was with Tommy	4	4	1	4	Because they had a kid.	He dosent want to get the veirus, k	1	4	He sa									
2 Joel is Sarahs dad	2 He was working late	3	4	1	3	Be cause the had a kid with	Because they had a kid aswell and	1	4	We w									
4 her dad.	2 they were zombies out	1	4	1	1	They can maybe won't help	they can maybe sick	1	4										
1 He is her father	2 His work, the contractor was bei	3	4	1	3	Because they had a child	Someone else would come along	1	4	He'd be tne on his own	They weren't sick	2	5	1	5	4			
3 Joel is Sarah's father	1 He was at work	3	4	1	3	They had a kid	He wanted to protect Sarah	2	4	They will go back for later	Sarah	4	2	4	4	1			
4 He was her dad	2 He had been at work	3	4	1	3	Because they were not sick	They could be sick	1	4	That he will meet them later	that they were not sick.	2	5	1	5	5			
1 They are father and daugt	2 He was working	1	2		4	Because they had a kid	They could be infected	1	4	We will go back for him	that they were not sick.	3	5	1	6	2			
3 Joel is Sarah's father	2 He didn't want to loose his job	3	4	1	1	They had a small child	They could be infected	1	4	He tells her that they'll return to him	He had a little girl with him	2	3	1	5	4			
1 Sarah is Joel's daughter	2 He was working?	3	4	1	3	they had a child	he didn't know if they were infected	1	4	That he would be fine	that they were not sick.	2	4	2	5	5			
1 Sarah is Joel's daughter	2 He was working overtime	3	4	1	3	Because they had a child v	He was afraid they'd be infected	1	4	He says they'll go back for him once Sarah is safe	They're not infected	2	4	1	6	5			
3 Joel is Sarah's dad	2 He had a longer work day than u	3	4	1	1	because they had a kid	It was dangerous if they were infect	1	4	that they'll come back for him	Sarah was hurt and just a child	2	4	1	6	3			
3 Father and daughter (his	2 Because of work	1	4	1	3	Because they had a child v	Because they also had a child with	4	4	He will meet up with them on the highway	Because Sarah leg was broken and she	2	3	1	4	3			
1 Joel is her dad	2 it had been a long day at work	3	4	1	1	because they had a kid	because "so do we" aka they also	1	4	he said to get her to safety first	they had been through hell	2	3	1	5	3			
3 Father and daughter	2 Job interview	1	4	1	3	They had a kid	Safety	1	4	He says they'll go back for him	They had been through hell	2	4	1	5	4			
2 Joel is Sarahs father	2	3	4	4	1	To protect them from the vir	Because they might have had the v	1	4	He tells her that they have to get her to safety first	That they already had been through hell	3	4	1	4	4			
4 He is her father	2 He was fired?	3	4	1	3	They had a child with them	He knew the risks	1	4	He tells her that he will go back to him after saving S	They had not been infected	2	3	3	3				
3 Father and daughter	1 He had work	3	4	1	3	Because they too had a ch	Because they needed to take care	1	4	"He'll be fine"	Because they had been through hell	2	4	1	4	4			
4 Family	1 He was fighting	3	4	1	4	They all were from the sam	He said that he got children	2	4	That he wanted sarah safe first	He is narssicist	1	3	2	6	5			
3 Joel is Sarahs dad.	2 Because he had mush in work.	4	4	1	3	Because they had a child.	Because they may been infected.	1	4	We will get him when we are safe.	We are not sick/infected. Sarah is hurt.	2	4	2	5	5			
4 Joel are Sarahs father.	4 He was on his work.	3	4	4	1	Because they have a baby.	He don't now if they been infection.	2	4	He don't answer.	Be cause he fink they have infection.	2	4	3	2	4			
2 Joel is her dad	2 His work	3	4	1	1	They had a kid.	They might be infected.	1	4	That they will get him later.	That his daughter was hurt.	2	2	1	6	1			
1 Joel is Sarah's father.	2 He was outside with the ifected i	3	4	1	3	They had a kid.	They could be infected.	2	4	"He'll meet us there."	Because Sarah was hurt.	2	3	1	6	6			
2 Father and daughter	1 because of work	1	4	1	3	they had a kid	Joel also had a kid in the car	1	4	he said that they will comebak for him	they was not infected	2	3	3	3	3			
2 Joel Are SarAHS DAD	1 I DONT KNOW	3	4	1	4	He WANT TO HeLP TheM	TheCAN BE EleKTeD	4	4	I get DACK for HIM	I DONT KNOW	2	4	1	3	5			
4 They like eachother very i	1 late for work	3	4	1	3	they had a child	they had a kid in the car	1	4	he fix it	had a child	4	4	2	2	4			
3 They are father and daugt	2 Because he had a late night shif	3	4	1	3	Because they had a kid	They didn't know what they were gr	1	4	"We'll get you safe, then I go back for Tommy."	Joel told the soldier that his daughter wa	2	4	1	3	2			
4 son and daughter	2 He was drunk	1	4	3	4	he had a kid of his own	to dangerouse	1	4	we have to get you safe first.	"we have been troghou hell"	2	2	3	3	4			
4 Joel is Sara's father	2 He was at work	3	4	1	4	because there was a kid	the infection	3	4	He is fine	That Sarah was hurt	1	4	2	5	6			
4 Joel is like Sarahs dad	2 I don't remember	4	4	1	1	he feel sad aubot them	Because he just think of himself ar	1	4	"he will be good"	that he will save his douter	1	4	2	3	5			
3 Joel is her dad	2 he was working	3	4	1	3	because they had a kid	they might have been infected	1	4	we get him later	that he has a kid	2	2	4	6	6			
4 Father and daughter	2 Work?	3	4	1	3	because they had a child a	They could be infected/someone el	1	4	That he needed to get her to safety first and they wo	They had been through a lot already	2	5	1	6	6			
4 Sarah is Joels child	1 people was sick	3	4	1	3	They had a kid	They could bean sick	1	4	He will be fine	He was not sick	2	2	3	4	3			
1 Joel is Sarahs dad	2 Becuse he was working late	3	4	1	3	Ther was a child	he did't know if they was sick	1	4	he did not answer	They wher not sick	2	2	1	5	3			
4 Joel is Sarahs father	2 Late work	3	4	1	3	Because there was a child	They might was effected	1	4	It's ok we are safe or something like that	Because Sarah was hurt, and they've be	2	4	2	4	4			
4 not so god	1 he work	3	4	1	4	becase They Nead help to came away		3	4	Joel sey tommy klarar sig sjalv	becas menny was sick and	1	4	6	4	3			
3 Joel is Sarah's dad	2 because he get flierd from his job	3	4	1	3	because they had a child	because he said they have a kid	1	4	He said he was going to be fine	He was not "sick"	2	4	2	6	5			
3	2 because he was out and looked	3	4	1	1	because there was a child	He wanted to get Sarah away from	4	4	we get you safe and go for him later	that he have a child	2	2	4	5	4			
4 They are son and daughti	1 He was outside	3	4	1	4	because they had a kid	He wanted to get out of there	1	4	"He's going to be okay"	They weren't infected	2	3	1	5	5			
4 Joel is Sarahs dad	2 He whera at his jobb	3	4	1	3	Because they had a child v	They might had ben infected.	1	4	he responded whitt that they go back fore him later /	that they werent infected and that she w	2	4	1	5	5			
2 Joel is Sarah's dad	2	3	4	1	3	Because they had a child	to save his own life	1	4	He need to go to save them self	Because he wanted to serve	2	5	2	5	5			

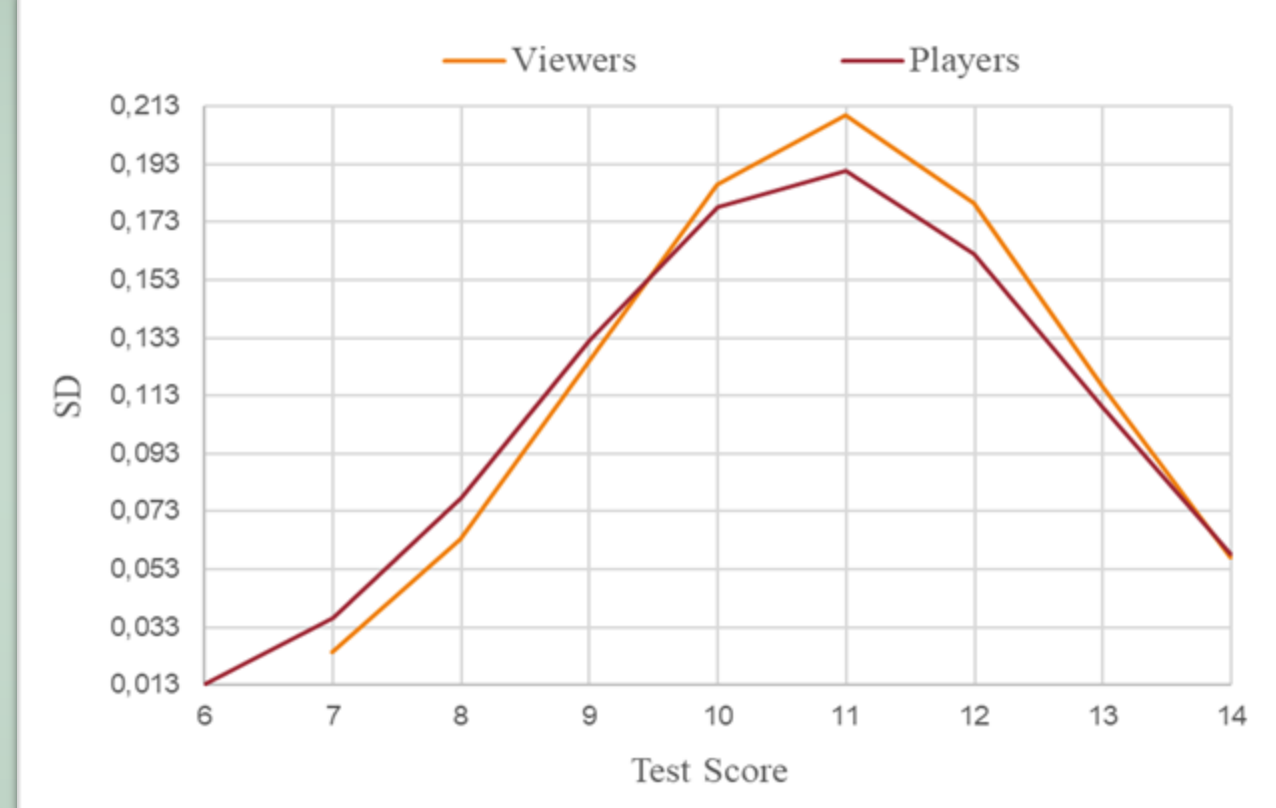
132 students. 3 828 data points.

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The Results

- The primary results showed that the players and viewers fared similarly.
 - Viewers' mean score: 10,93
 - Players' mean score: 10,79
 - A two-tailed T-test gave a P-value of 0.68→
The difference between the groups is likely a coincidence.
 - The skew entails that questions could be harder

The Spread of Results for Viewers and Players Plotted Into a Normal Distribution Curve



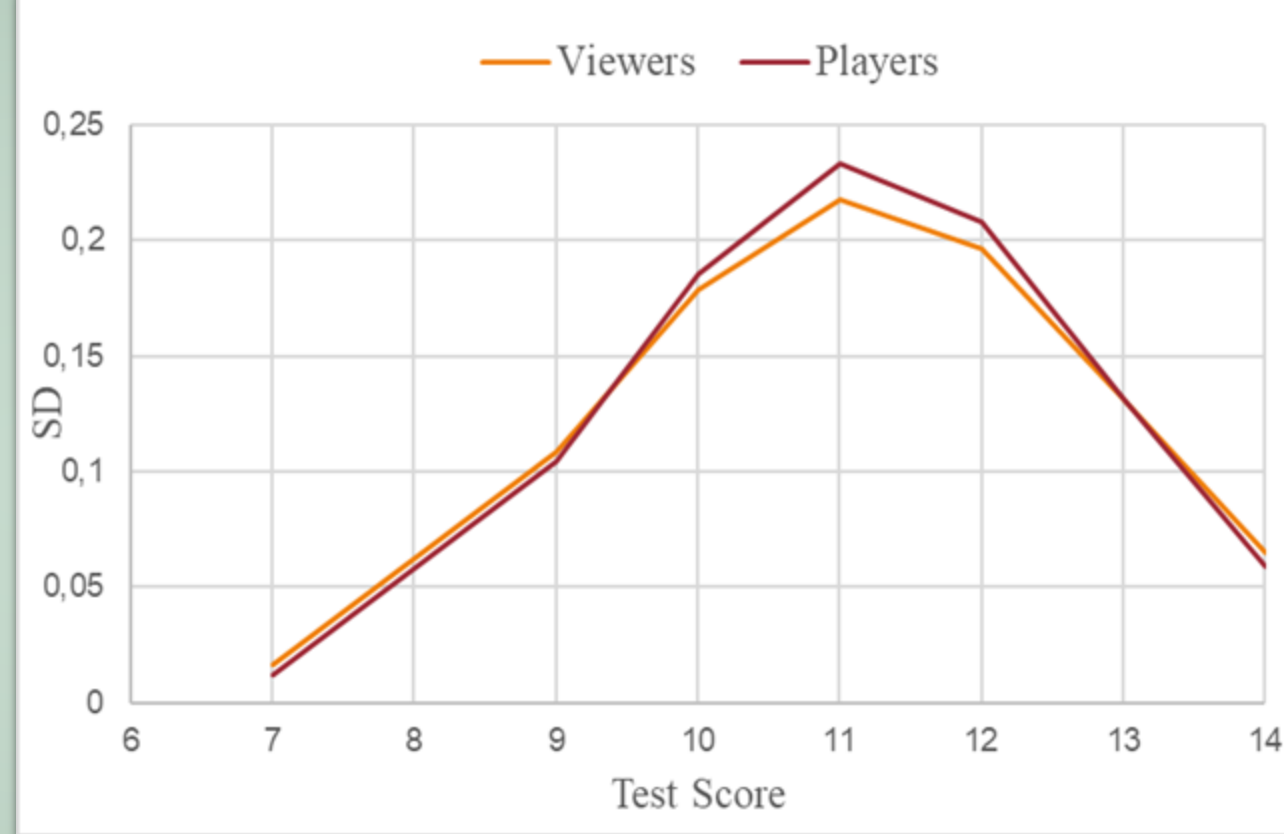
Source: 'Figure 21' in Bång, Torffvit & Grandi 2023, p.71

In and of itself, this suggests that video games are a viable option for audio visual learning in the classroom!

The Results

- We also measured several variables (only possible thanks to our team of three)
- When factoring in “Video game literacy” as a variable...
 - Habitual players fared marginally better than the viewers
 - Viewers' mean score: 11,16
 - Players' mean score: 11,17
 - A difference of... 0,01 points

The Spread of Results of Frequent Players Plotted Into a Normal Distribution Curve



Source: 'Figure 22' in Bång, Torffvit & Grandi 2023, p.74

Conclusions

The study

- The players didn't perform better than the viewers...

BUT

- ...Neither did they perform worse in a statistically significant way
- Although habitual players didn't prove to outdo viewers who were also habitual players, our results suggest that **playing games habitually increases EFL comprehension**. (Compare a mean of ~10,7 and 11,7)
- These results are in line with other studies in the same field (See Sylvén & Sundquist, 2012)

The Band

Cooperation:

“a smorgasbord of competence”

- Finding previous research/ survey methods
- Vast network of contacts
- Allowed for statistically significant data to be gathered
- Crunching the numbers
- The analysis and writing process was both efficient and nuanced

The Reception

Finally it was turned in... but what of the reception?

“...it should be noted that these three graduate students demonstrated an exceptional cooperative effort in completing this thesis as a team”

- Supervisor and examiner

To summarise: We believe that the institution could only benefit from more three-person master's theses. If you have an ambitious idea, don't let old customs hinder you. There is evidently **strength in numbers!**



Strength in Numbers

Thank you for listening! | Anton G., Robert B. & Simon T.

