



# Game Writer – Video Games

**SALARY RANGE (2017):** \$48,660–81,300<sup>1</sup>

I am a born storyteller and gamer. My job involves writing scenes, dialogue and prose for leading video games. I work with a team on defining the world and gameplay mechanics. I'm responsible for developing stories with compelling, multifaceted characters that have strong motivation and consistent dramatic arcs. I manage scripts and assist in recording sessions and voice direction. My career merged my two passions in life—gaming and storytelling.

**The Tip:** Do a work-term experience. Period. This forces you to get out of a classroom and apply yourself. This opens up your world.

## PRIORITY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:

Job-Specific Skills	Job-Specific Knowledge	Core Transferable Skills
Be an expert in the following job-specific skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducting secondary research</li> <li>• Ability to identify target audiences</li> <li>• Ability to develop a compelling narrative</li> <li>• Ability to develop an evidence-based story</li> <li>• Ability to use specialized communications and design technology</li> </ul>	Be an expert in the following job-specific knowledge areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deep knowledge of human behaviour</li> <li>• Ability to link content to audience</li> </ul>	Be an expert at all core transferable skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thinking skills</li> <li>• Communications skills</li> <li>• Organizational skills</li> <li>• Interpersonal skills</li> <li>• Technical literacy</li> </ul>

## BUILDING BLOCK EXPERIENCES:

<b>Education &amp; Learning:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bachelor of Communications (journalism) with a minor in computer science</li> <li>• Game Design: Art and Concepts Specialization from California Institute of the Arts from <a href="#">Coursera</a></li> </ul>	I always dreamed of being a game writer, but so do many other people. I followed my passion for storytelling, graphic novels and gaming into a degree in journalism where I focused on learning to tell a concise story. Leveraging education and learning is critical to be one step ahead of my competition.
<b>Employment Experiences:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did an internship at local gaming start-up. This company offered me a position upon graduation.</li> <li>• First position was as game project coordinator. Promoted to story coordinator and was mentored by lead story writer. My focus was character development.</li> <li>• Was given game writer lead and launched first app-based game four years after graduation</li> <li>• Recruited by large gaming company to be</li> </ul>	My big break happened by choosing to do a particular internship one summer. This single decision defined my career. It showed me what I love to do and what I am good at. Working in this start-up, I realized that to become a game writer, I would need to take charge of the world I design and all the characters in it. It was all up to me. When I went to a larger company, I had the advantage of having “owned” a title already, and this set me apart.

game writer for an established series	
<p><b>Community Experiences:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joined creative writing club in my community when I was 16 years old. I led the graphic novels group. In the group, I built my network and identified mentors.</li> <li>• When I am back in my hometown I host an annual gamer hackathon to mentor up-and-coming designers</li> <li>• Was on executive of my university gaming club. Very active in gaming community and engage in hackathons.</li> </ul>	<p>Volunteering not only allows me to contribute my skills to my community, it broadens my network and relationships. The diversity of these relationships forces me out of my comfort zone.</p>
<p><b>Contextual Experiences:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To progress in this career, I needed to move to a city with a critical mass of gaming companies</li> </ul>	<p>I knew I had to move and I am happy to be only three hours away from my hometown by plane. Balancing career and life is a challenge and there is no “right” answer. You need to make the decision that feels right for you.</p>
<p><b>Relationships:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cold-called founder of a start-up in my first year of university. This cold call led to my internship and 10 years later the founder remains a friend and mentor.</li> </ul>	<p>All relationships require risk-taking. The biggest challenge was that first phone call I made. I realized that if I didn’t make the call, someone else would. I took a leap and never regretted it.</p>

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<sup>i</sup> Range from <https://ca.indeed.com/salaries/Writer-Salaries?period=yearly> and [Neuvoo](#)