

DO WE SHOW OR DO WE TELL?

SHOW

TELL

"For Elendel and free Elves, I'm honorbound to see your demise!" <Roars>
<Mimes a sword lunge>

2
↓

I shout, "For Elendel and free Elves!" Then I roar and lunge with my sword.

4
↓

My character shouts a warcry, roars, and attacks.

↑
1

I shout, "For Elendel and free Elves, I'm honorbound to see your demise!" Then I roar!
<Mimes a sword lunge>

↑
3

My character shouts an Elven warcry while thinking of Elendel.
Then they roar and attack with their sword.

↑
5

WHAT MOTIVATES THE PLAYER?

EFFICIENCY

EXPRESSION

Borris tries to kill the goblins without taking any damage because he wants the quest reward.

2
↓

Borris tries to kill the goblins merely because his character is a goblin hunter.

4
↓

Borris tries to kill the goblins because it will be exciting to see his character try, even if it's nearly impossible.

↑
1

Borris tries to kill the goblins because he wants the quest reward, but he wants a struggle.

↑
3

Borris tries to kill the goblins because it will be exciting to see his character try.

↑
5

WHO CREATES THE SITUATIONS?

GAMEMASTER

PLAYERS

GM: You're in Mayortown, where they love the mayor. Your quest is to find out how the mayor is corrupt and then remove him from office.

2
↓

PLAYERS: Let's be in Mayortown, where they love the mayor.
GM: Your quest is to find out how the mayor is corrupt and then remove him from office.

4
↓

PLAYERS: Let's be in Mayortown, where they love the mayor. Since he's corrupt, let's find out how he's corrupt and then get rid of him.

↑
1

GM: You're in a town where they love the mayor. What's it called?
PLAYERS: Mayortown
GM: Your quest is to find out how the mayor is corrupt and then remove him from office.

↑
3

PLAYERS: Let's be in Mayortown, where they love the mayor.
GM: But the mayor is corrupt.
PLAYERS: Let's find out how he is corrupt and then get rid of him.

↑
5