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What is the Better Buy? Xbox 360 or Playstation 3?

As new video gaming systems are released into the shelves of the store, each with its own unique, creative quality in them, people tend to ask themselves, which system is the better buy? Releasing into stores are the two most awaited systems gamers have been waiting for for a very long time, including the all new and powerful Playstation 3 and Xbox's new update XBOX 360. Both gaming systems have their own unique quality that makes it better than the other. They come in different prices. Now in the end, when that question arises, it comes up to what the gamer prefers most. In other words, it is what that certain gamer will enjoy playing and interacting with in the future. It is all about the prices, the components of each model, its graphics, and the games that go along with it.

The first concern that may arise for parents and other buyers are the prices of both of these systems. Although these prices may be expensive, with all the processors and equipment found inside, they are most definitely worth the buy. The Xbox 360 has three different versions, beginning with the lowest price of \$279.00 known as the Xbox 360 Arcade. Then follows the "mainstream model" worth \$349.00 and finally the new high-end model known as the Xbox 360 Elite, costing \$449.00 (Thurrott). Why is there three different Xbox 360's? The price varies because each one either comes with different equipment inside, or includes an advantage over the other. For example, the least expensive Xbox 360 Arcade includes only the console itself, a wireless controller, a memory of 256 MB and a standard AV Cable ("Which Console"). Now,

the “mainstream model” includes everything the Xbox 360 Arcade includes, except it also includes a headset for use of the online interactive XBOX Live and a Network Cable (“Which Console”). The AV Cable included in the “mainstream model,” unlike the Xbox 360 Arcade, is compatible for High Definition Gaming too, maximizing your gaming experience to graphics that are unbelievable for the human eye. Lastly, the Xbox 360 Elite includes every single component and equipment that is included in both the Xbox 360 Arcade and its “mainstream model” (“Which Console”). In addition to that, its console, wireless controller, and headset is black, instead of the original white. The storage memory also is 120 gigabytes, which is much more than the 20 GB compared to the “mainstream model,” allowing you to be able to save many more games (“Which Console”). Now, the Playstation 3 comes only in two different versions: the 40 gigabyte and the 80 gigabyte. The 40 gigabyte comes up to be \$399, and the 80 gigabyte ends up with a total of \$499 (Thurrott). The \$100 price difference is due to the amount of memory found in both versions of the Playstation 3. You can save and store twice as much as things in the 80 gigabyte one than the 40 gigabyte one. There is not much of a major difference between the two versions of Playstation 3 being sold compared to the three versions of Xbox 360. Yes, they are rather expensive, but the cost dropped from the original Playstation 3 price of \$600 and Xbox 360’s original price \$400. Therefore, both are better buys! They are much less expensive now than they were before and each comes with guaranteed fun that no gamer can ever imagine!

What makes these prices so high? It is important for the consumer to consider what is found inside both these systems and what makes each one different than the other. For example, let’s consider their audio. The Xbox 360 comes with the analog sound of Dolby Pro-Logic II, while the Playstation 3 comes up with normal stereo sound (Thurrott). The Dolby Pro-Logic II

makes the noise sound sharper than ever, with its loud high surround sound. These audio differences are only the beginning. More important than the audio is their system memory, which is used to save all the games you are going to be engaging in. Playstation 3 comes with an all-time high of 25.6 GBps of memory bandwidth, while the Xbox 360 only comes with 22.4 GBps (Thurrott). Although not a major difference, you will not see this difference until your playing your system and then an image shows up saying, "MEMORY FULL." That is when Playstation's extra memory comes into action, having an edge over the Xbox 360. What the Playstation 3 also has that the Xbox 360 does not is the Blu-Ray DVD player (Thurrott). Although Xbox 360 has a normal DVD player, Playstation 3 provides the Blu-Ray version for when you play DVD's, it allows you to experience the DVD in high-definition, illustrating the film clearer and more realistic than any other human being has ever witnessed. Through its technical and system equipment found in the interior of the system is where Playstation 3 is able to gain an advantage over Xbox 360, having its extra memory and containing the high-definition Blu-Ray DVD player

The most critical aspect to consider for both these systems is their graphics and game selection. Although many gamers tend to believe due to a rumor that Playstation 3 contains better graphics than those of the Xbox 360, Xbox 360 observationally dominates with its Xenos GPU system (Nelson). The Playstation 3 contains the RSX system, which has less power (Nelson). Moving to the topic of game selection, Xbox 360 completely, obviously dominates the PS3 (Nelson). "There aren't even enough decent games to make a Top 10 list with!" mentions Carl Nelson in his recent article comparing both Playstation 3 and Xbox 360 after a year of both their release. Xbox 360 has many major, successful titles, such as *Bioshock*, *Mass Effect*, and *Halo 3*. PS3 has yet to come up with its own major hit, but upcoming awaiting games include *Killzone II*. But consumers are worried about now, not the future. Therefore, no doubt about it, Xbox 360

clearly dominates the PS3, containing games that gamers will interact with more and entertain themselves for a longer period of time.

As more and more consumers are entering stores and leaving with a new console in their arms and they ask themselves if they bought the right one, the true answer is that Xbox 360 is the actual better buy. With its better game selection, its powerful graphic generator, and reasonable price for what it contains, it observationally dominates the Playstation 3 and will be more fun for the gamer in the future. Therefore, the next time your looking for a Christmas present or you are wondering which console to buy, do not think for a second, and clearly purchase the Xbox 360.

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