**COVID-19**

Caroline Parker

Department of English, East Carolina University

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Dr. Cheryl Dudasik-Wiggs

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It all started on March 13th, 2020. Little did I know, that was going to be the day that everything changed, not only for me but for millions of students across the United States. On this day, hundreds of schools across the country were shut down and forced to move all classes online due to covid-19. The virus that has killed millions of people worldwide couldn’t have come at more inconvenient time. I had just turned seventeen and I had no idea that I would never be able to attend high school in a normal way ever again and even must graduate in the middle of a global pandemic.

When my school went completely virtual, everyone had a hard time adjusting to this new way of learning. Some students were falling behind and some even failing classes because of this change. Personally, I am not the best at taking tests and I hadn’t done so well the first time I had taken the ACT. I had planned on retaking the ACT to hopefully get a better score for colleges to see when it was time to apply. Covid-19 caused all exams to be canceled and I couldn’t retake the ACT. Many other students were affected in the same way and because of that, thankfully, many colleges gave the high school graduates of the year 2021 the option to submit their ACT/SAT scores.

I finished my junior year and started my senior year completely online. Being a senior, I didn’t have too many classes and because school was virtual and at home, I had a lot more free time. I got a new job and I started saving for college. I was working part-time and completing my senior year virtually. Being a teenager in 2020-2021 has been tough so far. I did a lot of growing during my last few years of high school and I am still learning and adjusting to everything covid-19 throws my way. My senior year flew by and graduating in a pandemic was a very weird experience. I hadn’t seen any of my classmates in so long, everyone looked so different. I had only attended normal high school for two and half years and it felt like just yesterday we were all sophomores.

I am now a freshman in college here at East Carolina University. Covid-19 is still affecting me and everyone else to this day. Two days before I was supposed to move into my dorm at ECU, I got sick and had to quarantine for ten days. I missed the whole first week of classes and I was having a hard time keeping up with my work while staying at home. My ten-day quarantine period recently ended, and I was finally able to move into my dorm and start my classes. I feel behind everyone else, and I am trying to catch up with my colleagues. Although covid-19 is still around, I try my best to push through and do my part by wearing a mask to keep myself and others safe.