**COVID-19**

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The coronavirus, although rather new, has altered the daily lives of nearly every person on the planet. I believe it has not only effected people’s daily lives, but it has had profound effects on people’s emotional well-being. As I saw businesses, restaurants, movie theaters, and all social places start to shut down I noticed a many of my friends and family members begin to act a different as time went on. I especially had a hard time dealing with the effects of COVID-19 during the end of my senior year. It left me missing my senior prom, graduation, and a lot of experiences I will never get back. Ever since the world declared COVID-19 a pandemic my life has been completely altered and I don’t know if life will ever return back to the way it was before the pandemic.

While leaving high school without a proper sendoff was difficult, I tried to have a positive outlook on life and look on the bright side of things. After my teachers told my class that we were done with all work in March, I began to work nearly over 40 hours every week to try and save money for my freshman year of college. Also, I was able to see some of my friends and family more often, but I wasn’t able to see my grandparents because they were the most at risk for the virus. Likewise, I do miss being able to do social things with my friends like going to a football game or being able to not wear a mask in every place you go in. Moreover, I wish I would have gotten to see some of my classmates one more time before we all went our separate ways. As I reflect on those moments I missed out on, I think about all of the moments I was able to have, such as my senior football season, as well as being able to be in the student section for basketball games and how the seniors now are missing out on everything.

After graduation, I was looking forward to going to ECU and being able to live on campus. However, that was cut short due to the pandemic and I was only able to be in college for roughly two weeks. During that time, I made a lot of new friends and had a great time. The only downside was not being able to physically go to any of my classes and having to do everything online. This made it somewhat difficult to be able to ask questions, which in turn resulted in me teaching myself all of the material, without any guidance from my professors. Additionally, I know it was just as difficult for the professors, as I can imagine that they would much rather be in person as well. Hopefully the spring semester will be better, and we will be able to stay on campus for more than two weeks.

Since we were sent home for fall semester it has been an adjustment trying to do all my schoolwork at home. Most of the day I am by myself studying while my both my parents are at work, so it is peaceful, however it does get lonely sometimes. In comparison to college, where I was able to do my work in the study hall right across from my dorm room. Honestly, I preferred the study hall, even though it was noisier. It was nice being able to study with my friends and talk to them while I did my work. I miss being able to see some of the friends I made because we were just getting to know each other.

Overall, COVID-19 has affected nearly every aspect of my life in a negative way, but I try and keep an open mind that things will hopefully become better soon. In relation to missing out on things such as graduation, prom, or my freshman year their is no reason for me to be upset about it, due to the fact that the government was forced to stop all those things from happening to prevent the spread of the virus, which I understand. Furthermore, online school hasn’t been terrible, and I am still learning new material every day, so all I can do is make the best of each situation and look forward to days ahead.