**COVID-19**

Michael Loring

Department of English, East Carolina University

ENGL 1100 Foundations of College Writing

Dr. Cheryl Dudasik-Wiggs

Fall 2020

**COVID-19**

The COVID-19 virus has really made life both very interesting, as well as frustrating. For some people this virus saved them from schoolwork that they did not want to do, but for others, took away what was supposed to be some of the best times of their life. The virus is still a part of our daily lives if not more than ever. Unfortunately for me, the coronavirus has negatively impacted my life in big ways. In ways such as missing out on the rest of my senior year, not really being able to go out with friends and shortening my first half of freshman year.

The college experience for me during the pandemic has unfortunately been cut short, staying on campus at least. It was very annoying because after the two weeks, I was starting to settle in and feel right at home, and then got sent off that next week. The pandemic also made almost all classes go online, which is not that bad, but in person learning is a lot more understandable and easier to adjust to than just online. It also took away the athletic experience, looking ahead to college, the tailgating and gameday experience is just something I wanted to be a part of early on. As well as any type of campus activity had to be prohibited, me being an athletic person, I was looking forward to going to the gyms that us students have access to. So even though these experiences will be available in due time, I was ready to settle as much as I could early in my college life.

Graduating high school is always a dream, even though I was looking forward to graduating normally, I was not that upset with the alternative. The only part about the regular graduation that I missed was being around the people that we had been with for those 4 years. Although walking the stage was the plan, doing a drive through seemed to be way more efficient, which I was alright with. I really enjoyed that with the graduation being a drive through, it only lasted about 20 minutes, which allowed me to at least see all of my teachers. So overall even though I would have enjoyed walking the stage, it all worked out in the end.

To get things started, personally this disease just confuses me and makes absolutely no sense. Although it has proven that it can be fatal and highly contagious, I have never had much fear of contracting it, mainly because I follow protocols. My main thing about the disease is the testing process and the false positives, as well as being asymptomatic. Many people believe that this disease is all a political thing and it will be over and die down as soon as the election is over. Personally, I do not see that to be true, but I do not believe in the person contracting it from a bat. But I can just hope that people listen to the safety protocols and is starts to disappear soon.

Distant learning has not brought up many issues to me personally. The pandemic has also not made my change anything about my education. Although it has not brought up problems, I have not been the biggest fan of online learning. I do enjoy being able to access the work whenever instead of having set times during the day. The only issue I have is being away from campus with everybody. I was really enjoying my limited time and was looking to build with the enjoyment until we had to go back home.

To wrap it all up, this disease has pretty much been a burden in almost everybody’s lives. It took away from what was supposed to be some of the best moments of my life. My early college experience was cut short, but it definitely will not ruin the experience. One of my last opinions about the disease is that people who complain the most about people not following rules and putting others in danger should stay home. Just like some people at college, if they were worried about getting the disease, they should not have showed up. But all I can do is follow the rules, I just hope this all comes to an end soon.