**COVID-19**

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Let’s talk about the thing that seems to be running the world, COVID. We have all heard about it and we are all living through it. Whether we like it or not this microscopic disease has changed the world and changed the way we live our life. Some fear it and some don’t believe in it. Everyone talks about it, yet no one really knows anything about it. There have been rules put in place to keep everyone safe but not everyone follows them. This virus is not going to go away any time soon no matter how hard we try. We have made giant steps forward with the vaccine but also took steps back. In a way we all have changed from the pandemic and have altered the way we live our lives.

Starting out college in a pandemic for me has not been much different than I thought it was going to be. I feel that my college experience so far has been normal. We are fully in person for classes and have been able to do most of everything we could before the pandemic. While I do not actually know what a “normal” college experience is, I think this is the closest that I could get to one. Aside from having a normal social life at college I feel that even the classes are as normal as they would be. We might even have more of an advantage by being able to meet remotely after class during office hours. Teachers now are more prepared to help students in more ways than they used to because everyone had to change their way of life during the pandemic. For me I think that college in the pandemic is not any more strange or abnormal as any other year before the pandemic.

Highschool on the other hand was very different than most high school years. Starting out my junior year, in second semester we started to move out of classes and meet virtually. Everyone was still getting the hang of it and no one really knew what to do. Most kids would not even go to class or do any work. My school for example was not allowed to bring your grade lower than it was before going online. For most people with high grades already this was great news because we would not have to do anymore work our junior years. Everything was optional at first and school seemed like it was coming to an end a semester early.

Then senior year came along, and it was partly normal. Sports were back in session and you had a choice to go in person or stay at home. I personally chose to go back because I enjoyed school. I liked being able to talk to people and have in person learning. When online I always just felt like sleeping through my classes and getting no work done because it all felt optional. It never felt like we were in school. My school was very on off about going in person and going online. Every quarter we could switch. In the end I still finished out my high school career with my degree and was able to walk across the stage at the Charlotte Motor Speedway and graduate with all my friends and family members.

Covid sure made an impact on my life but did not change it too much. It changed my school life but everything else seemed normal. I never had anyone from my family die from covid or anyone in my family get covid. I would say that I surely did not realize how serious this disease is until I started to know people who were getting the virus. I am sure that it has changed and shaped me in ways that I don’t even realize but I was most concerned about the social aspect of my life rather than not being able to go to school.