**COVID-19**

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Most people -including I- have heard the expression “Is the glass half empty or half full?” Do to the Covid-19 Pandemic, light has been shone on the previous expression, thus producing a more vivid understanding of it. Personally, witnessing the sudden closing of schools, restaurants, and professional sports; along with having watched all the deaths and hospitalization rates across the world go up, my cup seemed like it was always half-empty. However, the downbeat mood did not last long. I soon sought out the positive sides of Covid-19, as many other people around my age did. For example, even though I was laid off from my job in the food service business, I quickly found another job at a Shell gas station. It just so happens the new job I had found gave me the opportunity to work more hours and get paid more! Despite being disappointed about losing my job at Cracker Barrel, I was able to experience working 3rd shifts at my new job. Additionally, working the night shift meant very few customers and lots of time to do my school assignments, it was a win-win situation, amid an overall terrible situation. Of course, there were many other instances where I began focusing on the smallest bright lights in the darkest of situations. For example, while I could not hang out with my bigger friend group at school, I was able to spend an abnormally increased amount of time with my closer friends outside of school.

It is fair to say the younger generation went through something no other recent generation has gone through. I believe I, and the other people around my age, were forced to mentally step outside the normal boundaries of teenagers during the pandemic. I only say this due to the fact throughout the pandemic and throughout the average person's experience of becoming more optimistic and less pessimistic, there were a great deal of life lessons learned. In my experience, I not only obtained a glimpse of adult life, but I also got a taste of it. I observed how unstable things can get in the face of adversity, along with realizing important it is to be versatile and flexible, as well as the consequences of being without them. I had developed more determination and grit to simply “keep moving” through the struggles, such as learning virtually and running out of common household supplies. Most importantly, I had matured and grown during the pandemic. I believe everyone around my age had, because it was the first major event of our lives which completely changed how we lived day to day life. Although the pandemic’s lessons were taught through some unsatisfactory methods, they were taught in a way that made them stick. As a result, I will always have my cup half full and never half empty, I will value adversity, I will be determined, and most of all I will keep moving forward and not give into the pressures of life, I will overcome and learn from them.