**COVID-19**

I never thought Covid-19 would affect me as much as it did. I never thought it would modify my education, my social life, my family’s happiness and ultimately alter society to conventionalize a solitary lifestyle. Nothing has been the same since the introduction to this virus, for it is making history and forever changing our lives.

I remember the first time I heard about Covid-19. I was sitting in my high school Government and Politics class when my teacher projected an article about a disease in China supposedly caused from a man eating a bat. The class filled with laughter due to the ridiculousness of the report. After researching on my own time, I was so confused how a virus could cause so much harm so quick to a population. Due to my solipsistic view, I never thought the Coronavirus would even touch America or anyone I knew. Little did I know, a week later we were forced to stay at home and never attend school in-person again.

If it weren’t for my healthy relationship with my family and their fun-nature my quarantine time wouldn’t haven’t had been as enjoyable as it was. Surprisingly I was entertained during quarantine time. Yes, it was hard not being able to see my friends every day, but occasional meetups at the park and daily facetimes resolved that issue. I was in the best shape I had ever been, spent immense time outside, created lots of art, learned how to play multiple instruments, and spent a lot of time with my family. Although I was locked in the house, I was grateful I had amazing people to spend it with.

Towards the end of summer, I started getting antsy and ready for things to go back to normal. It didn’t help seeing my friends traveling, partying and doing the things they wanted on social media. My mom was fairly strict about following the Covid-19 regulations due to the fact she was at high-risk due to her Lyme’s disease. This put me in a very difficult situation because I didn’t want to miss out on opportunities, but I had my mom’s health to think about.

It wasn’t until the first semester of college when I started to hate this virus. I was so excited about attending school, meeting new people and for things to feel normal again. This was rudely interrupted 3 weeks later when I was sent home. Once again, I was back stuck in my house but this time without my sister and without my friends, for they were still all at school. Around this time, I felt lonely, bored and tired of my routine. I was ready to be a college student and have immense freedom, but it wasn’t just my mom telling me no, it was the government.

My biggest struggle with the Coronavirus thus far, has been with decision making. I want to go out and really experience college like a typical freshman, but with that comes the risk of getting Covid-19 and possibly spreading it to others. I think many others can relate to this struggle for we all want to do the right thing for society, but at times it feels like the virus doesn’t exist here at school. If we all did our part and wore our masks properly and followed the guidelines maybe Covid-19 wouldn’t have lingered as long as it has.

I miss the touch of others, the shaking of a hand, the hug of a person without the screening of “where have you been?” Life is never going to be the same, but with the newly discovered vaccines and research our society is slowly becoming more social and welcoming once more. Covid-19 has caused so much destruction to families and the livelihoods of others, but society has quickly adapted to the changes and has made products and services to stay connected with others. I’m certainly ready for Covid-19 to disappear but I believe its existence was a wakeup call for humanity regarding the many dysfunctions in society, governmental departments, education and healthcare systems.