**COVID-19**

COVID-19 has taken a lot of lives, unfortunately, and due to that, I had an increase of anxiety and fear. I have relatives who do not have a the best health and I did not want to go anywhere in public, but then again I did want to go out and live a normal life. I started getting into a closer relationship with my family and my belief. Spending time with my family is essential to me and this pandemic made me realize how much family is significant in my life. I am so thankful that my family and I are alive and well because so many people have died from COVID-19; so many changes have happened because of this virus.

Changes my family had encountered was having to wear masks, just like everyone else, and being more cautious of this virus. We have taken the necessary steps to follow CDC guidelines and stay safe. On the other hand, we have been having more family time with each other and just being around each other gives me joy. There is nothing more joyful then spending time with my family, especially, when a lot of people are dying and the crazy things that are happening in this world. Although there are downfalls to COVID-19, on the bright side of things, I have started new talents.

I have discovered some new talents that I did not know I had. I found out that I am more artistic not just in dance, but in graphic designing, and film and video production. I love creating art using random images or materials. I have been doing so well with my creativity in filming and graphic designing that people started asking me to create videos and flyers for them. COVID-19 is a positive and a negative because it, at first, brought fear and anxiety but it eventually led me to discovering talents I did not know I had. It also led me to spending more time with my family and really engaging with them.

Being around my family and doing my best to keep them safe is what I did concerning my education. After East Carolina University sent students home because of an increase in COVID-19 cases, I decided to stay home for the rest of the school year. I wanted to keep my family safe and myself as well. Even though I was keeping my family and I safe, I was struggling with my online classes; it was very challenging at some points during the semester where I almost gave up but I did not, I kept doing the best I could. As time flew by, I started thinking about returning back to college. I am indecisive of what I want to do but I know that I want to be safe and keep my grades up. I was indecisive about my major but I decided to change it. My major was accounting but I switched it to management. I will still be in the College of Business, even though I thought about switching to another major. If I was going to change my major to something besides business, it would be art; I would concentrate in film and video production. However, I would mess up my graduation schedule if I decide to change it now. There are lessons that I had to learn during this pandemic and not procrastinating was one of them.

There are some big and small lessons I have learned while being in this pandemic. I have learned that I should take this virus serious because of the death toll and COVID-19 cases in the United States. I learned that I do not need to take my relatives and friends for granted or be bitter towards them because I do not know when it is going to be their last day or even my last day. I need to love on them no matter what, keep in contact with them, and check on them every now and then. There have been loved ones who have passed that has brought my entire family closer with each other. I love that we are getting closer but I hope that we start getting closer when there is no bad news or deaths. I have learned to appreciate my health and immune system being strong because COVID-19 targets those who have a weak immune system or bad health. I am just grateful for life overall; I am grateful that I am breathing. I am also glad that I have my family by my side because some people are not able to see their family anymore. Some people have lost their entire family, so I appreciate the moments of communicating with my family and letting them know I love them.