**COVID-19**

COVID-19 changed my life both physically and mentally. There were two main things that this pandemic helped me view differently. The first thing I want to talk about is my senior year in high school doing this pandemic. So I graduated class of 2020, and as a senior that year, the whole graduation process was very complicated. The whole high school experience when COVID-19 came around as a whole was just dreadful, in my opinion. It all started during the beginning of track season, and we had our first track meet, which we won. The practice after that was when COVID-19 got severe to the point where schools were closing. Our team was projected to go number 1 in the North Carolina Championship Track Meet, and we as a whole were so excited for the season, and then that is when everything just canceled, and the season got cut short, and we were sent home for the rest of the year. Furthermore, this contributed to the graduation process because it differed when switching from in-person learning to online learning. After all, we did not do online learning like that as a school, so it was already hard to adjust quickly, especially when we had exams. We had to get everything situated with colleges that we planned on attending for seniors, and our high school necessitates sorting out for us to graduate. Applying for colleges and everything when COVID-19 came around was confusing because I did not know where I would go yet, and I thought I was running out of time. After our exams which, thanks to God that I passed. There was a gap where the seniors did not do anything related to school because our prom and senior activities got canceled. Luckily we did have a senior trip to Orlando, Florida, that I attended before the pandemic got very serious. Other than that, we did not have anything, so we were hoping that we would have graduation, but with the stages that governor Roy Cooper had for North Carolina, no one knew when we would advance to the next stage. Our principal scheduled us to have in person graduation after the stage we were currently in was supposed to be over but maybe around two weeks before graduation they extended the stage because there were more COVID-19 cases coming up. At this point, I honestly didn’t even care for graduation anymore but our school agreed that we will have a drive-through graduation and everyone appreciated that because it was better than nothing. When Summer time came up I really was just sitting in the house all day doing nothing because everything was closed down here and there really wasn’t much to do. All I really did was play video games and watch movies night in to night out. I thought everything was going to change when I was gonna go to ECU but because I thought everything was gonna be open since they were letting us go back to campus but it was the complete opposite. When I got down there nothing was open at all other than the student center and cafe spots. Therefore, other than going to classes all I did was either play basketball with my friends at this elementary school near the college or just chill in the dorms and watch sports. Then we got sent back home due to an outrages COVID-19 case breakout because of a major party that happened. With that happening, this is where I can say my whole mindset changed dramatically. When I was on campus I noticed that I really didn’t have any source of income coming in but when we got sent back home and I was taking online classes and working I noticed that I’ll always want to make money no matter what I am doing. I developed a mindset of if I’m not making money for what I’m doing I’m not doing it right. So I’ve been living off that ever since because I want to be wealthy when I get older and I feel like saving and investing your money at a young age is a great way to get to that point in the future. I also think that I like online classes better because it’s straightforward and they tell you what you need to do and that’s it. I think it’s easier than listening to a teacher trying to explain something and you might not understand it rather than you teaching yourself and being able to expand your learning styles. Most of the time schools are teaching physically because there’s always a teacher in the classroom teaching a topic and giving examples to get the kids to interact. Overall though I think that since being sent back home I’ve been able to grow more financially, gain common knowledge on how to take care of my money and be able to come up with a plan of what I want to do in my upcoming years in college. From internships, to be able to get in contact with certain people that do what I want to do as my career and just have a better professional mindset because I’m not a kid anymore.