**COVID-19**

Anonymous

Department of English, East Carolina University

ENGL 2201 Foundations of College Writing

Dr. Cheryl Dudasik-Wiggs

Spring 2022

**COVID-19**

December 12th of 2019 was the last day of order for a lot of the world when COVID-19 made its first appearance in Wuhan, Hubei Providence, China. News spreading by the day kept everyone on their toes with contradicting updates as researchers and health care professionals were trying to figure out exactly what they were dealing with. In short notice hospitals were thrown into a hole of which National Geographic now describes as the deadliest disease in American history (Wilkes,2021) Hospital beds were at max capacity and incubators were prioritized based on severity leaving a considerable amount of people without a needed lifeline. Now in 2022 the world is in no better condition than where we originally began. Nurses have been let go due to refusal of vaccination while COVID-19 positive nurses can now go back to work after 5 days of quarantine. The world is trying to move on faster than our healthcare system can handle, and healthcare professionals are getting the short end of the stick. As of November of 2021 The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that the health-care sector has lost nearly half a million workers since February 2020 (Yong, 2021) . Medical burnout has resulted in the loss of dedicated employees who were painted as heroes instead of receiving adequate help through the pandemic. As a Junior Exercise physiology intended major with the intentions of taking my academics to physician associate school, hearing countless testimonies from healthcare workers has made me question my desire to go into the field. The pandemic has revealed how little support there is in the medical world, no amount of passion will aid in the overwhelming feeling of helplessness and burnout.

As a full-time student amid a global pandemic, it has not been easy in the slightest. What was thought to be an extended spring break turned into a full year of online classes with professors who had no experience in teaching online courses. I am a student who needs hands-on exposure, who lacks the self-discipline to not be able to attend classes in person to learn the curriculum, and who also still worked 40 hours a week as a part time employee. The course load for many of my courses was beyond what it would have been if we were in person which made the semesters unbearable and overwhelming for the average student. My physician confessed that he would likely be able to finish school if he was placed in the predicament as students are currently in. Labs were being taught over zoom and your education relied on 6-year-old lecture videos that professors threw together in place of the actual curriculum. For some they excelled in online courses and dreaded having to be back in person but personally I have seen a rise in my performance with the face-to-face interaction we missed out on for so long.

Despite the pandemic I came into school with only one passion of being an Orthopedic physician associate. I have long contemplated changing my major because of the overwhelming feeling that I was trying to fill shoes that were too big for me. Imposter syndrome set in after struggling through my classes making me feel like I just was not fit or had the intellect to go after what I am passionate about. Looking into my options of different career paths I had no infatuation with anything other than my current. Although the pandemic has created a lot of setbacks for not only me but the healthcare field in general my mission has not changed.

Due to my struggle with online courses my GPA took a fall that depreciated my chances of getting into physician assistant school which has guided me to investigate resources that I did not know were available before COVID-19. The pandemic has allowed me to figure out myself as well as becoming secure in where I want to go in my life. The revelation about health care deserted me with numerous decisions to make. Whether Medicine was still what I wanted to pursue knowing what I may endure on my path there is still currently a question I ask daily.

**References**