**COLLEGE DURING COVID-19**

X

Department of English, East Carolina University

ENGL 1100 Foundations of College Writing

Dr.Cheryl Dudasik-Wiggs

Fall 2020

**COLLEGE DURING COVID-19**

College. What most people believe to be the best times of their lives. A place where you can go and be free from your parents (or guardians) overbearing sight. A place where you can go and spend night after night after night with your friends and never have to worry about adult judgment. Somewhere that can also be the beginning of one’s future. The start of a new life. A new beginning. Some might even say a ‘restart’ on a person’s direction in life. Or at least that is how it is supposed to be. But what if that ‘perfect world’ gets flipped upside down by something so small, the naked human eye cannot see? How does one continue to live their dream, and start their new life when there is no form of stability in the one thing, they were hoping to find stability in? In what way does somebody create that new normal that needs to be created during a virus that seems to have no ending in sight?

That is a question that many people have no clue how to answer, including myself. College during a pandemic is challenging, and at some points, it just feels like the best thing to do would be to give up and wait until this whole thing blows over to continue. But see that is the problem, who knows if or when this will ever end. This could very well be our new ‘normal’. So, what should one do in this situation? They should decide the best course of action for their own personal wellbeing and continue that track. What I mean by this is with Covid-19 things are always changing and that means that college life is always changing as well, so the best thing you can do is make the best decisions for you and continue your track.

Well in my case I went back and forth a lot when it came to making many of the decisions that I have been faced with this year for college. Which means I have struggled a lot. One of the main struggles that I have had to face was deciding whether I should stay on campus or move back home. This was a difficult choice for me because like every other college student I was so excited to get away from my parents and enjoy the newfound freedom that every student gets to experience when they move away from home. I was enjoying being on campus a lot just like every student does, however, I knew that if I stayed on campus then I would put myself at risk for getting Covid-19 since there were so many cases popping up around me. I also knew that by staying on campus I would lose my freedom because of the way that things were having to close due to the virus. After much debate with myself, I eventually decided that moving back home would be the best option due to the fact that I wanted to try my best to avoid getting the virus and because I wanted to have some sense of freedom.

Another challenge that I have had to face throughout this pandemic is switching to all online classes. This has been a challenge for me because I had never taken an online class up until this year. For me, face to face classes have always been my way to go since I struggle with focusing and procrastination. With online classes, I find it extremely difficult to keep myself focused on classwork when I have my family always doing different tasks around the house. Another problem for me with online classes is that I tend to procrastinate because along with classes I also have a job, so I put all my classwork off in order to work and have time to get some rest in after work. The last problem that I have with classes being online is that I find it difficult to understand the material being taught with the many different teaching methods that the professors are using.

College during a pandemic is different for sure and I am not going to say that I like it or dislike it. I am going to say that it does have its ups and downs, but if you keep your head up and continue moving forward it works out in the end. During everything that has happened during this virus, I have been able to grow and learn many different things. However, the main thing that I have learned is that change is not always bad and that you must learn to be open to changes whether you like them or not. I have also learned that when it comes to decision making, do not continue to go back and forth. Make your decision and continue with your life, if not you will end up more stressed than before.