ENGL3570.001

February 1, 2023

Meme Assignment



Alt Text

“When you accidentally sneeze at work”. Four monsters in hazmat suits are frantically disinfecting another contaminated monster.

Photo Description:

A monster is faced on the ground. Four monsters in hazmat suits are pushing him to the ground to disinfect him. The four monsters in hazmat suits appear to be working frantically to ensure the contaminated monster is properly cleaned.

Reflection

I chose this meme because it pretty much sums up my experiences during the peak of Covid. At the beginning of Covid, I was working in a restaurant and after the initial two-week lockdown, instead of closing down the whole store, we switched to drive-thru ordering only to enforce social distancing. Therefore, I did make limited contact with others on a fairly daily basis. I remember it being extremely awkward if I needed to sneeze or cough, especially if I was interacting with a customer because I felt that they would automatically assume it was because of Covid. So, I feel like this meme portrays those feeling pretty accurately. Working during the pandemic was really tough because the restaurant I worked at was already pretty bad when it came to making tips. So, with our sales being decreased by over half, it was a huge adjustment to money spending and saving habits to prevent myself from going totally broke. School was also pretty stressful since everything transferred to online learning. During that time, I was not a good online learner, so making the switch was really hard for me. That happened during my last semester at community college, then I transferred to ECU where classes were in person for two weeks before covid spread across campus and we had to shut down again. I finished out my first year pretty poorly and had to take a semester off after than because I knew my gpa would suffer too much. Surprisingly, I thrive in online courses now and I suppose I can thank Covid for that. I was also able to take that time off and focus it towards myself and gave myself time to really think about what I wanted to do in the future. So, I guess in a way it all worked out for me, as I know many were not as fortunate. In November of 2021 I ended up getting covid and it was extremely stressful to manage that on top of school. I remember having a practical exam for my anatomy and physiology class on a Wednesday and I just felt off. I knew something wasn’t right, so I didn’t show up for my practical. I was extremely stressed because I didn’t know what to do about missing it and thought I would get a zero. However, later that night I found out I had lost my smell and taste and I knew I had covid then. I went to get tested the next day, and that was honestly a pretty traumatic experience for me. I had been tested before and it was not big deal, but the swab they used this time didn’t have any cotton or anything on the end. It was just a plastic stick that they shoved up my nose, which caused me to have a really bad nosebleed in my car, with no napkins or anything. I just sat there, backing up the line with my hand holding my nose closed until a nurse came back up to me and asked if I needed napkins (Obviously!). Then I wound up testing positive and had to quarantine. Luckily, I was able to take my practical two weeks later, and I aced it! I also remember my experience of covid itself wasn’t too bad, I had the mild symptoms. The worst being that my nose was so dry that every breath burned. I would have to huddle over a humidifier to ease the pain. It didn’t help that the house I lived in was really old and wasn’t very well insulated, so it was freezing for the first week of my isolation (Shout out to my boss for dropping off an electric heater). Overall, my experiences with covid weren’t the best, but they definitely weren’t the worst. I think my worst experience is that even now (over a year later) I still haven’t recovered my full sense of taste. I can taste everything, but a lot of things just don’t taste the same. Many sodas taste like chemicals and smell like gasoline. I can’t eat or drink hardly any tropical fruit flavors because they taste rotten. Even some chocolates have a weird taste to me, which is awful because I love chocolate. Of everything that now tastes bad, I am just thankful that Dr. Pepper still tastes normal.