**COVID-19**

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ENGL 1100 Foundations of College Writing

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Spring 2021

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It was the beginning of March, nobody had a clue as to what was about to happen. My friends and I were very happy to see that we got a week off from school due to this new, and unknown virus that’s being spread around. But we were not expecting to be off for the rest of the school year. My high school didn’t require seniors to do any work during the time off that we were given, so in my mind, this was just the beginning of summer vacation.

COVID-19 was running rampant throughout the world, it was bound to touchdown in the United States. It was the first month of COVID vacation, and I have just been sitting in my room playing video games all day. During the first 30 days, I began to feel sad because I didn’t see my friends, my teachers, or even my classmates who I never really talked to. After a month or so I began to start hanging out with my friends again, which did help with the sadness that I was feeling from just staying in my house for a long period of time. I just hope COVID-19 runs its course soon and stops being a major problem. I want things to go back to normal, how things were before the pandemic.

Graduation was bittersweet. I felt that it wasn’t deserved because I skipped a whole school year, but it all ended up alright. College was right around the corner, just in 3 months I would be attending this new school and meeting all these new people, but COVID is still running rampant so there is going to be some complications. I said my goodbyes to my parents, siblings, and friends still living here in Raleigh, and embarked on my journey to ECU. Living in a dorm room was nice for a while, it was my own little space. Sure, I had to wear a mask around campus and my dorm hall 24/7, but that didn’t bother me. All the classes I was taking during my first year of college were online classes, so I couldn’t experience walking to class every day. It just felt like I was back at home, sitting in my chair playing video games, but in a new environment.

After 2 weeks of college, all the students got sent home, which was a bummer, mainly because I had to go through all the trouble of moving all of my stuff back home again. Going back home and seeing all my friends and family was nice and made me happy to see them again. Online learning is hard, and it takes a lot of self-control to do all the work your teacher assigns you. The advantages of online learning in my mind are not having to trek to classes every day and dealing with people you don’t want to deal with, you can be by yourself while working online. But I do enjoy learning in person rather than online, I feel I can learn better while being in the presence of other people and seeing the teacher teach. Online learning makes me feel like I must teach myself certain concepts just by reading some text sent out by a teacher and I don’t enjoy it, I like the human connection of in-person classes. My grade doesn’t suffer that much from being in online classes, but I would succeed much better being in person.

Ever since I got sent home from college due to COVID, life hasn’t changed that much, but that isn’t a bad thing. I’ve been doing my classwork, working out, and hanging out with friends. I’ve met new friends and have really learned to appreciate what I have now because who knows what else is around the corner. An asteroid could come down and crash into earth, aliens could come and invade, or an even deadlier disease is about to come to wipe out the human population, but I’ve just learned to appreciate what I have now.