COVID-19 Essay

 The Coronavirus pandemic has been hard on everyone. This pandemic was the first for many and it was an unexpected one. It has ruined experiences, contributed to job-loss, and took the lives of our family members. This is a period of time that I will never forget.

 It was March 15th, 2020 when my mother received the call that I would be out of school for three weeks because the number of COVID cases were increasing in our county. I was ecstatic to be able to take some time off of school and relax. I had no idea that the previous Thursday would be my last day of high school. Finding out that everything I had been looking forward to would be taken away from me was devastating. I did not get a senior prom or graduation, which is something that everyone hopes to experience. Not only did the pandemic take away my senior year of high school, but it also took away my freshman year of college. Your freshman year of college is meant to be a bittersweet experience. It’s where you make new friends and get your first taste of freedom. East Carolina University sought to keep things as normal as possible this year before cases began to pile up on campus. We had to leave campus and return home two weeks after I began school. I recall returning to campus after a wedding and receiving an email telling me that I had to either pack my belongings and move home or live alone in a dorm room. The was one of the most important decisions I ever had to make. I chose to stay on campus and try to make the most of my freshman year. Since my boyfriend lives near campus, I have been spending the bulk of my days with him. I did not have much of an opportunity to make new friends during the two weeks we were in school, which made it even more difficult to stay. My boyfriend is a grade above me, he was able to make friends on campus and encounter the freshman experience. When we hang out with his friends, they still complain about the fact that they were robbed of the last few months of their freshman year. I just say to myself, “At the very least, they had a pretty normal year.” They have had access to everything I have not, and they’ve taken advantage of it. I would do whatever it takes to know what a normal college experience is like. The pandemic has taught me to cherish every moment of my life because it can all be taken away in the blink of an eye. This past year hasn’t been entirely bad; in the past few months, my relationship with my family has grown stronger and I have made a lot of new friends. I recently signed the lease to an apartment with my roommate for the fall and I am ready for life to go back to normal. I will never forget what this pandemic has taught me.