**COVID-19**

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ENGL 1100 Foundations of College Writing

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Fall 2021

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COVID-19 has been one for the books. Many highs and lows through this enduring journey of people becoming ill, discriminated, judged, and so much more. Individuals from everywhere have been affected and continue to be affected by this pandemic. That being said, people are not only affected by sickness, but also an adjustment to life in and of itself.

I personally have been affected on multiple levels by COVID-19. For instance, going virtual the last semester of my junior year and having many adjustments made to my senior year really put into perspective what life is going to be like for a little while longer. I was expecting college to be all online, however, it came to be that in-person classes would resume. I felt a little more normalcy begin to appear. Being on campus here at ECU has really opened my eyes. I am viewing people with such an immense amount of gratitude. We are all helping/protecting each other by following ECU protocols and wearing our masks as well as getting vaccinated.

My view upon this whole ordeal with transitioning and becoming immune to the way of life now has been greatly impacted. For example, when my high school was moved to all hybrid, we all had to adjust. I feel as if those adjustments have instilled in me a stronger level of discipline and sense of responsibility. It’s almost as if this pandemic was placed on this world to serve a purpose. I have grown to be more independent and look at this world with more appreciation of the little things we have and realizing how something can change in a blink of an eye.

My family and I suffered multiple losses during COVID-19. We struggled a good amount of time in the pandemic. So many life changes all while undergoing a pandemic is a lot to take in. My mom’s best friend from high school got admitted to the hospital in March for COVID-19 and is remaining in the hospital till this day. She was in and out of rehab on a daily because one moment she was doing great and completing all her exercises perfectly, and the next moment she was sicker than she was in the beginning. Currently, as we receive updates about her progress, we find out that she is doing worse and may have a chance of losing her life. It is a miserable journey she is on and extremely hard to watch her and her family go through this suffering of such agony.

My family and I have come to terms with the good/bad things in life. We stopped taking such little moments in life for advantageous. To be able to understand what someone is going through, don’t judge or harass them for their actions, instead sit back and realize that that person may be going through hell and is trying to get through his/her situation. Many times during this pandemic I was going through a lot of things, and just trying to figure out why things happen the way they do and I came to a conclusion that everything that is meant to happen is going to happen, for the good or the bad. I am a firm believer that God, our Lord is going to put these milestones and distractions in our lives for a reason. Along this process of bumps in the road, called life, we figure out our people and ourselves. The desire to do good for each other is shown within our morals and respect.