**COVID-19**

Department of English, East Carolina University

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Dr. Cheryl Dudasik-Wiggs

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Ever since the start of the pandemic life has been so slow it seems, high school seemed to go by so quick, but college seems to have been moving slowly. My first semester in college is when the pandemic started to first bite it’s fangs into the world, but who would have guessed the most problematic thing that would be caused by this pandemic would be the misinformation. The college life during the pandemic has been anything but glorious, half of my classes so far have been online, while I love the mobile way of doing school, I really do appreciate the classroom. The professors at East Carolina University have done a good job with the students and making sure we keep a classroom tempo even when online, this has helped me tremendously and I am glad I chose East Carolina. I am a social person and being told to stay away from others and maintain distance has been tough, I truly believe you need a team to get as far as you truly can, you can get far alone but further together. I one day hope to open my own business and the pandemic showed me that for my business to thrive, it needs to be available even during times of distress, so many small businesses in my hometown of Wilmington have shut down and it’s because they were not prepared for the bad economy. The good thing about being home a ton though is the amount of time I can spend with my family; I have always been a bit individualistic and closed off from them so it is nice that I can finally be open and really relish all the time we have together. The pandemic has really made me question how politics in this country operate and it made me consider what I could do in the future to help, possibly study politics and try to make change myself. The only reason I care so much is because so many people do not, if America was full of people who did not care about what happens around them then how could we truly call ourselves free? Freedom is something you fight for in my opinion, not something you can use as a crutch, I understand what the people before me have done to make sure I have the liberties I have and that is why you must care. America to me is the most beautiful and free place in the world, the reason the world looks at us the way they do is because we are so free, no American should feel bad for being American. The pandemic has also showed us that we need to keep a valid eye on China, for many months the world tried to tell everyone that the pandemic was not a Wuhan lab experiment, even China, but recently the science is starting to unearth all the details, or in my opinion, common sense.