

Did you go to class?

A pandemic has broken out, panic and fear fills the atmosphere, toilet paper is going missing, streets are empty in California, there's actually parking in San Francisco, and educators and students all across the nation are forced to do school online. This abrupt change in plans takes a toll on everyone. How is everyone feeling about these online classes though? Well for many, not so great.

Thankfully enough, we live in an age of time where technology allows us to still connect and learn right from the comfort of our own homes. However, as of right now it's not looking too comfortable.

Starting off with the educators, it's definitely not easy to change the structure of classes and transpose them to an online situation. Some teachers refused to even consider online assignments for their class before this whole outbreak. How do you think those teachers are handling this situation now? Not very well. After the announcement of school classes being online, many emails from professors went out of them expressing their feelings and struggles they are experiencing. Though most expressed the understanding of the difficulty being faced with this new challenge, the messages ended with a hopeful motivation to get through these obstacles in unity. Oftentimes they would end with "together, we'll get through this". We're now roughly on week two of quarantine. Most educators have figured out some type of flow for their new online classes, but how are the students doing?

On Facetime with a good friend who attends Grand Canyon University, and explained to me that, "Classes are so hard to not have in person and I am STRUGGLING. Motivation is not my friend right now, and it's so discouraging to be honest." When she said this, I imagined it as a tweet that got so many likes and retweets from students who feel the exact same way.

Zoom is the new conferencing video call tool that many people are familiar with now because that's their new way of going to "class". The idea is genius and is a lifesaver for emergency situations. Though the idea of it means no harm and is very useful, many find it hard to adjust to the new change. There should really be zero reason you miss a class if it's through a video chat, but from personal experience it seems as though some students have found a reason. Zoom calls can get really boring for some students, causing them to just not join and sleep instead. It makes sense in a way. One moment you're in a physical classroom with responsibility and accountability, the next you're forced to stay home, and home is where your bed is. For many students it feels like another break, so it's not easy to get up at 7:30 in the morning for a Zoom session.

Getting used to the new normal is challenging for more than just students and teachers. Yes we live in an internet age, and "technology is what you grew up with". Though people like to throw that phrase at younger generations, it's not always something they would prefer. Most are missing the physical contact and presence of their friends, peers, just civilization in general. Maybe a new appreciation will grow for school after we are set free.