

Sunday May 17, 2020

Hello, my name is Julie. It is interesting to see how the world is affected by COVID-19. Many factors are put to the test: leadership abilities, public health responses, and the people's actions and reactions to the pandemic. It is a challenge for everybody. COVID-19 has affected me in many ways.

Academically

Academically, I feel that I am doing worse. I expect my final grades to be lower than what I wanted (I hope not though). Online learning through Zoom is a challenge for me. I am learning, but I feel like I am not really learning. Learning through Zoom, it was so easy for me to become distracted, bored, and become lost in class. It is not the same as learning in person. Being physically in the classroom made learning better. Online learning did not feel real to me.

With the shelter in place and the cancellation/postponement of many events that were important to me, I felt very sad. I worked so hard for the last 4 years, but there is no graduation. It is postponed until the next live graduation event (December 2020, or even May 2021). I feel as if my senior year was taken away from me. This is a time I can't get back. My "college memories" ended in March, when the shelter in place began.

Mentally

I feel sad more often. I miss my friends and the outside world. With all the extra time I suddenly have, there were too many instances of reflections and realizations. Some were good, some were bad. I realized I relied on going out and physically being somewhere else to help my mental health. I also relied on all of the small talk with people in my classes and friends around campus. Being at home and having less interactions with the community and environment has significantly impacted my mental health.

Personally

Due to COVID-19, I lost my job. It is not even a job I can get back because the entire business shut down. My parents also lost their jobs as well, and we had to file for unemployment. Now, we rely on benefits to pay the rent and to buy food and other necessities. As a graduating senior, the rest of the year will be extremely harsh. How will I transition into an adult and transition to the working force? How will I find a job after this is over? What am I even doing? I'm not ready for this, especially ending my college years like this. This is a terrible transition.

Reflection

Everything is a mess. Everything is unstable and the future is uncertain. I keep wondering when it will end. I hope it ends soon, but that is up to everybody and their reaction to the pandemic. Looking at the news and what some people are doing, it is evident that this is not ending anytime soon. Finally, COVID-19 has created a new fear for me. I am Vietnamese-American, and I am scared of the discrimination and racism that I will probably face once I step out of the door. There may be certain places I will avoid for a while, and I plan on carrying self defense products with me just in case something happens...