

Nathalie Noriega

Professor St. Dennis

English 1A

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Dear Future Nathalie,

How are you doing? It is probably thirty years in the future now and you're in your late forties. I hope all that money you spent on skincare products wasn't a waste. Since you're reading this in the year 2050 and know everything that has happened, I have some serious questions for you. Do you still play basketball? Do people still make TikToks? Are you still best friends with Alfie and Saron? These are just some questions to jog up your memory about what was happening in 2020. Before you ask, no, I did not forget the global pandemic that caused the world to come to a complete stop and for millions of people to hoard toilet paper and hand sanitizer. A good sense of humor is how you've been coping with your life turning completely upside down. Before the coronavirus reached the United States, you found yourself laughing at memes and TikToks about the whole thing. It was a simpler time before the panic set in and then suddenly you found yourself moving back home.

When in person classes got cancelled and the university sent out emails that we would be continuing the rest of spring semester online, you did not take it seriously. Midterms postponed until further notice made you glad to have more time to study. You celebrated that you were going back home to Los Angeles and taking a break from being in San Jose. Isn't that what we all thought? That we were taking a break for a few weeks and then everything would be back to normal. That is why you only packed half of your clothing when you were going home. As you

headed out of your dorm room with your bags to meet your sister, Melissa, you ran into your friend, Tyler. He asked, “When do you plan on coming back? A couple weeks?” At that time is when you realized you didn’t know when you were coming back. It gave you chills to think that no one knew when everything would return to normal, not even President Trump.

California State Governor, Gavin Newsom had stay-at-home orders put in place but that didn’t really affect you because you planned on staying home to catch up on school work. Not knowing a single person personally who tested positive for covid-19 made you rethink if it was truly that serious. The media is known for blowing things out of proportion. It made no sense that thousands of people tested positive, but you didn’t know anyone. Then, your mom started to feel sick and got symptoms and you became afraid. The day she got tested, you prayed all night until the next day. When they called and said, she tested negative, you had a sigh of relief to hear she didn’t have covid-19. It finally hit you why this pandemic has everyone afraid. It took someone that you knew personally for it to affect you and begin thinking about the consequences of the spread of the virus..

Thousands of people had to die in the United States because of covid-19 for you to realize the severity of the virus. This pandemic opened your eyes to the fact that fear brought everyone together. People showed how being generous and helping each other can make a huge difference in defeating the virus. Young adults started shopping for seniors, stores had senior hours, and there were many donations to help fight the cause. Remember that the people who are protesting against it are living in fear because they are scared that life as we know it will never go back to normal. People are scared for their loved ones because of this virus. Don’t fail to see the power that fear has over people. Or, the effect of cause simply because it hasn’t personally affected you

before it's too late. While reading *A Letter to My Students as We Face the Pandemic*, by George Sanders in my free time, he says, "Fifty years from now, people the age you are now won't believe this ever happened. What will convince that future kid is what you are able to write about this, and what you're able to write about it will depend on how much sharp attention you are paying now, and what records you keep." This letter is my record of the global pandemic to you and your future loved ones. I want you to remember what you went through and how you lived in fear but hopefully how strong you came out of it. Because that's all we can do is have hope at this time.

Sincerely,

Nineteen Year Old Nathalie