

MY QUARANTINE LIFE

JOURNAL ENTRY

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The year started off on a good note, I was starting to go out and have fun more, it was my last semester at SJSU, and most importantly, I was interning in my dream career field. As the months went by, the assignments began to stack up, and although I have gotten used to being busy, this semester seemed like it was really spreading me thin. I was taking on a full course load of 15 units, working 40 hours a week, and needing to complete 200 hours of fieldwork experience for my internship. The days quickly went by, and I continued with all my responsibilities. The news about COVID-19 (coronavirus) was talked about online, on tv, and the radio, but the thing was, it was in China, so it did not get that much attention.

A couple months went by, and now the cases were in the United States (U.S.) and quickly spiked in cases. The entire country is now in a panic and not sure of what to do to prevent themselves from catching this virus. The fear of going out set in, SJSU eventually moved all classes online, and my job was cutting hours. Stress became a lingering feeling I had as my hours continuously got reduced as the days went by, my school transition online was not too bad to adjust to. Still, I was worried that since I did not have the opportunity to meet with my Professor in person to discuss my assignments in one of the most critical classes needed to graduate, I was not going to fully understand what is expected of me.

In less than two weeks, my job had completely shut down due to the shelter in place mandate in my county, and I was now unemployed and anxious. The stress over how all of my bills will be paid was constant, and the worry over passing all my classes in my last semester affected my days drastically. Still, I remained positive and pushed through it. When the quarantined first was announced, everyone went crazy and panicked bought a bunch of toilet paper, almost all the food shelves were empty, it was hard to find paper towels and table napkins, and all the sanitizing products are nowhere to be found. During this first few weeks of quarantine, it was unbelievable how much people were hoarding and not caring if there was anything left for others. Since people were panic buying everything, stores began to implement limitations on items per family to make sure at least everyone can get a fair chance at buying these items. The most annoying thing about this whole situation is the fact that you have to wait in line to get into stores, so social distancing is being practiced in the store. I understand the reason why this is being done, but it really does suck to have to wait in line to pick up just a couple things.

Three to four weeks have gone by, and we are still in quarantine, it is becoming easier to shop for essentials. At this point, I believe I have gotten used to waiting in line to get inside a store where it does not even bother me anymore. The county did mandate that face coverings are required when going outdoors, so now the new norm is seeing people in a mask, and when someone is not wearing one, it seems weird. I am getting used to my new lifestyle and how things played out to be.

This experience has definitely been a blessing in disguise for me. For as long as I could remember, I was always juggling fulltime school and work, so when this semester came along, I knew it was

going to be a challenge because I had to now include internship and stressed about that. When I got into a routine, the virus hit and took out most of my responsibilities. Since this virus shut down my job, I was able to dedicate a lot of time to school and internship, which resulted in me having a better understanding of the material I was being taught.

I really hate what is going on with COVID-19. Still, I genuinely believe that while states are sheltered in place, the solution for COVID-19 is being worked on until perfected. The most important thing I learned from this experience is to try to find the positive side of the negative because sometimes that's all you got to get you through a tough time. We will definitely remember this pandemic as well as learn from it. We will learn new hobbies, skills, communication skills, and more since we are all sheltered in place. Most importantly, we learned to appreciate our essential workers more and how to stay sane during a quarantine!

-Camilla