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Longwood: Life during COVID-19

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### Covid Journal - English 400 Final

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Longwood's Coronavirus response hit right at the latter end of my final semester here at Longwood. I am a Computer Science student here at Longwood. I have been living off campus in Farmville before and after classes got moved online. Which means unlike other students I don't have the support and struggles of students that have gone home right away have.

Studying from home has been incredibly difficult. Normally, I make sure that I do all my school work in a school building. Whether it be at the library, Upchurch, or the Steven's computer lab, I spent almost all of my working hours far away from my desk at home. The reason for this is so that I can compartmentalize what I do at every screen and desk in my life. School computers and my laptop are for school work and my desktop at home is for talking to friends and watching netflix. After the pandemic, I use my desk at home for everything except sleeping (actually sometimes sleeping too).

That's the real problem with the coronavirus for us students. Classes don't slow down, but productivity sure does. Before I made a habit of going to office hours of the professors in my hardest classes even for just minor questions. Although I'm really blessed by my professors who all have made adjustments to their class requirements so my grades haven't slipped the way they would have if my classes remained the exact same. That said, it is incredibly difficult to keep up with my classes when all of my classes are project based. I missed about 5 assignments total through all my classes because of the projects I ended up spending more time on than expected.

Thanks to the alternative pass/fail option at Longwood my GPA won't tank. Since my GPA would really only improve with an A, I took that option in every class I didn't expect to be able to finish with an A. Online learning is much harder because everything is asynchronous and harder to focus in a place where typically focus isn't the desire. Longwood's best academic asset, the faculty is sort of stunted because students can't meet with professors in person and I'm sure they've also been experiencing the productivity atrophy I have been.

Enough about schooling though, how am I holding up? I'm doing better than many but not as good as usual. I realized really quickly that daily walks and social interaction with my roommates has been key to staying healthy. Other than the disappointment in my own work, I'm mostly unaffected by the quarantine. Everything I used to do can be done online. My friends now play games online rather than in person. I was able to eat Easter dinner with my family over Google Duo. Luckily my housemates and I are able to make dinner together.

Coronavirus has really harmed our nation. Many people have lost loved ones and those of us who can work are having a hard time at home; others go into essential jobs every day and have it worse; even more have no work or income at all right now. What I'm saying is I'm very lucky to only have the problems I do have. It's a really tough time for everyone but being a student is a lot less tough than others.