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Longwood: Life during COVID-19

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Covid-19 Journal

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Final Exam Prompt: Option Two

To whom this may concern —

I went into 2020 with high expectations and looking forward to a great year. I was living with all of my friends at Longwood University. The beginning of the semester was looking very promising. In my head, I thought that nothing could go wrong and that 2020 was going to be my best year. Then, COVID-19 came to the United States at the worst time. On January 19, 2020 the United States had seen its first case of COVID-19. This was also the same night that I turned 22, and thought that this semester with my friends was going to be the greatest.

Little did I know, all schools were going to be shut down. This was the last semester that I was going to see my friends before they graduated, and moved on with their lives. Now, I am the only one living in my apartment questioning when everyone will be back. Not only is the social aspect of college now gone. In-person courses have also been stopped during this time. Which has made obtaining and learning new material within multiple courses very difficult. Especially for those who have structure and retention issues. Having to sit at home staring at a computer screen for hours while trying to take notes and listen to professor presentations, can become extremely frustrating when a question rises and you cannot ask. Some of my professors have not even made lecture presentations, but instead just posted slides. This was very hard for me to follow along and understand. The transition between lecture courses to strictly online was very tough and stressful. Not being able to just raise your hand and talk to your professor or going to study meetings with friends can really affect someone's grade.

At this point in time, schooling is not the only important aspect of my college career. This school year, I started working at a local business in Farmville, VA. That way I could make some extra cash to have fun and go out with my friends. Little did I know that extra cash would go towards hoarding toilet paper and paper towels. I also did not know that my hours would be cut so short that I would not have enough to go to Chickfila every once in a while. In two weeks, the most I have made for a paycheck during this pandemic was \$50. That is way less than minimum wage, and what someone needs to make in order to live on their own. I have had to budget \$50 to last two weeks, while always having to pay for my rent, dog supplies, food, and personals. When you have never had to do this before, it can be very upsetting and seem impossible. I have had to ask family members, who are also not working at the moment, for help and funds to go get groceries. Personally, that is very hard for me to do because we are all trying to save what we can. But how can we do that with limit work and bills and other expenses popping up?

My biggest worry during this pandemic is my grandparents. For instance, I am not coming home for Mother's Day this year. I am nervous that because my age group may not notice any symptoms and still have COVID-19, I do not want to possibly infect my grandparents. This is very difficult for me because I am very close with my grandparents. I use to try and visit them every other weekend, especially during the summertime. But now, I am not allowed to see them and it hurts me and them. I call them everyday, but that is not the same as spending quality time with them.

COVID-19 has not just ruined my Spring Semester at Longwood University. It has affected my social life, family time, work schedule and pay. The thing is, I am a college student that can lean on my family for help through all of this. But there are many who do not have that benefit and support. That is way I can not wait for the COVID-19 pandemic to come to an end. If I am struggling this much with everything, I can only imagine how others that are less fortunate are feeling like. If quarantining for a while, and staying at home will help limit and end the pandemic faster. Then I will do my part in what needs to be done, that way one day we can all come together in bigger groups than ten again.