

Documenting your Experiences: Covid and Historical Sources

The COVID-19 pandemic was a big part of everyone's lives for those who had to endure it. Everyone across the globe had to make sacrifices and difficult choices. For many people, it was a very low point in their life but for me personally, it was not as bad as it could have been. Yes, I missed out on many fun experiences during my junior and senior year of high school, like sports and music, but I also gained something during that time as well, time with my family. When we first went into quarantine, everyone in my family had to come home. I have four brothers, two older and two younger. My two older brothers were both in college at the time, so I rarely saw them, but once quarantine started, they were sent home by the universities they attended. For almost an entire year, I got to spend quality time with both my brothers and my parents. Even though we couldn't do much outside of our own house, we made the most of it. I would say that our family is very close, and before quarantine, we were rarely all together at the same time, and if we were, it was not for very long. The time that I had with everyone during the pandemic will always be special to me because before COVID-19, we hadn't ever had an experience like this, and I know it made us closer. We felt like when we were kids again in the summer. No school, no jobs, and nothing to do except hang out and spend time together. It was a time I will never forget therefore, I decided to share my experience through music.

I have taken piano lessons since I was six years old. Growing up since then, I have fallen in love with music and felt that it would best express my feelings about the COVID-19 pandemic through a song that I wrote. I believe this song could be interpreted as both sad and/or happy. This is my intent because even though COVID-19 was a difficult time for everyone, I found a lot of happiness because of it, which I am very grateful for. Knowing myself, I sometimes struggle to express my thoughts and feelings through words, but I know that I can do so through music which is a big part of my life. This song represents how I got through the pandemic. I know everyone had different obstacles to work through during COVID-19, but I am pretty sure most people got through it because of their family and friends. And that is what I am trying to encompass with this song.

I found a strong connection with my primary source and experience to another primary source. The quote states, "Things have been good recently, otherwise. It is nice to be home with my whole family, the first time we have all lived together for an extended period since my brother graduated in 2016" (My Quarantine Journal, Western Wisconsin COVID-19 Archive). After reading this person's journal, it really stuck with me. The source's family experience was very similar to mine, which I found refreshing. I am certain that many other people had a similar experience with the COVID-19 pandemic that both the anonymous person and I did.

If, in the future, someone looks back on the COVID-19 pandemic archives and discovers my song or this reflection, I hope they learn how important family is, and how important it is to me. I know that I became the person I am today primarily due to my family. My parents raised us well and my brothers have all been a key part of that with each other. If it were not for them, I would not be the person that I am today. This is what I want a future researcher to learn. That to me, family is the most important part of my life, and I owe everything to them. Given this, I am also aware that family can be extremely complex, stressful, or even frustrating, much like the pandemic. I believe that is the case because of how important family is. Without the time I had with my family during the pandemic, I would not have been as happy, and I know I would have struggled a lot more with everything that came with COVID-19. To me, nothing is as important as family is. Everything I have ever learned, read, or seen has indicated the same thing. Family is above all. I truly believe this and hope that my song can get you to feel the same way.