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HIST 125

Documenting Your Experiences Source #1 Journal

December 31, 2019

At this time I am in my senior year of high school at Memorial (go abes!), and classes are going well, I currently have straight A's, and the upcoming semester seems like it will be easy. My favorite class at the moment is my AP calculus class with Mr. Olsen, I've had him for two years and what he teaches in that class isn't just math, it's how to live life to the fullest, anyways the first covid-19 cases are popping up in Wuhan, China but it's on the down-low.

January 8, 2020

Currently, the Center for Disease Control has issued its first public alert about the coronavirus, and Mr. Olsen predicted that it will get out of control and we will probably have to shut down, I honestly believe this is the case but it's too soon to say. I've been enjoying the year so far, but I'm annoyed we haven't gotten any snow days. I'm excited about my upcoming first year at college at UWEC, I've chosen to live in the dorm with my close friend from elementary Talib.

February 5, 2020

It's been about a month since my last log, but a lot has happened, the new covid virus has exploded in China and has slowly been creeping around the globe, the CDC has identified the twelfth covid case, which forms a college student in our own state! Also, I saw on the news that we are evacuating around 350 citizens from Hubei Province and taking them to an airbase to quarantine. All I have seen on any news outlet is stuff about the virus and it's kinda annoying, it's the only thing people talk about and Mr. Olsen is still holding true to his prediction.

March 12, 2020

Not much has changed in school with, all things considered, the total US cases have passed 1,600 and many colleges and universities have made the transition to virtual learning, and I've seen numerous public schools in covid hot-spots across the states shutting down, but not us highschoolers yet. One of my classes Human Anatomy has a really awesome teacher, Ms. Laid, the way she teaches is the way you wish all teachers did, she doesn't really give out a lot of homework but rather has us study with low-stress quizzes that we can retake. Anyway since it's a human science class, we take a lot of time to learn about covid, which I think is taking the world by storm right now. Today we learned about how the CDC is trying to "buffer" the virus and "flatten the curve" which means spreading the pandemic out over a longer time so that hospitals don't get flooded with covid patients.

March 18, 2020

I think today was the most shocking day of the year, we all saw it coming but it was finally announced today: Gov. Evers made the order to close all Wisconsin elementary, middle, and high schools starting tomorrow! I think that most of us students have two opinions on this based on if they are introverts or extroverts, because being stuck at home and not being able to see friends might be the worst for some people, but for others (me included) getting to sideline school and essentially start summer early was nice. I knew that the year was basically over because of how quick the stay-at-home order happened, leaving all the poor teachers scrambling to put together an online curriculum for nearly the entire 4th semester. My best friend's mom is a digital arts teacher and told me how organized it was on the administrative end, and as I said was hard on all the school staff.

May 27, 2020

It's been about a week and a half since my last journal, and I've been at home with my other siblings, my schedule consists of finishing all my weekly schoolwork in about 4 hours, then having the rest of the week to play video games, binge Netflix, and work a lot of hours. But I will say that having to work an 8-hour shift in a facemask will take getting used to. Also, my parents don't need to go to work anyway since they work from home a lot as it is, so I get to do stuff with them much more often. I learned that the US has reached 100,000 covid deaths, which to me shows that we didn't take this virus as seriously as we should have and we acted a little too late. But the amount of work I need to do for school is almost laughable, it's hard not to enjoy the current situation, because normally I would be in my room all day regardless.

April 20, 2020

I am glad that my two AP tests for Calc and Psych are still going to happen online, so I do need to study hard for those at least, but otherwise, the main message I'm getting from school is to "don't worry about grades, just stay safe and try to do the work" as they made the decision to make the final grade a Pass or Fail. So, as long as I submit my work it's basically impossible to fail, which is nice. Even though we are doing our learning at

home, it's all asynchronies so I just can do it whenever, but I am still applying myself to learn in most of my classes (even though a lot of people I hear are just not doing any at all). But it is still very frustrating to only see the news talking about covid.

June 13, 2020

Finally, school is over. The last few months online went by scary fast, but I think that working 40 hours while still having some schoolwork is likely a factor. I "passed" all my classes and got a 4 on my AP Psych test which is pretty nice, I also went through the long process of choosing my classes for my upcoming college life. It looks like the CDC is doing a good job at floating the curve, so that's good, and they announced the development of a vaccine, but that's going to take a couple of years at least so whatever. I think the stay-at-home order is going to end soon so life should be relatively getting back to normal I hope.

August 16, 2020

Today is a big day for me, I turned 19 and have some family over, I was only planning on inviting a couple of friends anyway so I wasn't too worried about potentially spreading any covid. It's really hard to believe that in a couple of weeks I will be moved into my dorm and be living on my own for a couple of months, but at least I will always be close to home. But I have seen a lot of people worried about returning to school, it sounds like Memorial which my younger brother is a sophomore will be split have in-person and online.

October 2

It's been about a month since school started and I have been enjoying college life! It hasn't been too difficult so far and the sushi bowl in the Davis center is to die for. I like all my classes and mostly all my classes are online, with only a couple in-person a week. It's really sad to say that President Trump being confirmed positive with covid today is a big meme. He has made some controversial statements about the virus and many say he handled it poorly, but it really doesn't matter to me that much. However, the virus has been getting even more out of control again and Wisconsin is currently one of the hot-spots around the country.

November 6, 2020

Things have been going ok around the college, I got assigned this project in my World History class to create a Primary source and I'm likely to procrastinate it. As of right now, we are having a lot more cases and I think it's safe to say that almost everybody knows someone who has contracted covid. I'm curious how long it will take before my work gets shutdown if enough people get covid.

November 20, 2020

It is the last day of my Journal because I have to turn it in tonight when I finish writing

my piece about why I chose to do a Journal. But as it stands I'm excited to take a break from college and go home for thanksgiving. We had previous plans to go see family, but I doubt that will happen with health experts advising families not to. I still need to decide on my classes next semester and I will likely pick some classes that fit the requirements for a psych or criminal justice major because I am still undecided on that. But I highly believe that covid be gone by the end of summer so I will have to stay used to virtual learning, which I don't find it difficult to do all things considered.

Why I chose Journal Entries

I decided to go with a journal entry for my topic mainly because of two reasons; one is that I'm not creative at all and sometimes I lack artist talent to draw, craft, or design things, and secondly, I felt that making a journal would be show my primary source of going through this pandemic. Journals are where you can clear your head and write down troubles or things on your mind, and these unprocessed thoughts can be useful to share more than just words to the reader. I have personally never written my own journal and I will probably never find time to, but I know that a lot of people make the effort to go through this process of putting the lines of thoughts on paper, and I get why that is useful. Also by doing this I think that when I'm older, I can use this primary document and show it to my kids so they know what it was like to live through this very unprecedented time.

I believe that doing a journal will best express my personal experiences throughout this pandemic because it gives my 1st personal perspective and my thoughts on covid as it changes the world, It gives my opinions and how I personally feel. This all contributes to it being a meaningful primary document that can be read by others in future generations. I think that one important thing people will learn in the future is that this virus as a whole can perceive a lot differently based on age alone, as a healthy teenager it's much harder to grasp the mortality of covid and as a result, we have irresponsible youth throughout the country putting others in danger, while on the other end of the spectrum the elderly are stuck in isolation for months due to their exposure

risk. Knowing this, gaining perspective from one age group to another helps to add depth to this primary source.

And through me writing this journal, I have recorded a small piece of my life that can be potentially shared through generations, a primary source is simply first-hand accounts and observations of events in the past, and my own experience is unique to me. I think people overthink what a primary source can be, they might picture ancient manuscripts, scrolls, or pictures, but it can be an interview, a firsthand account, or a diary. Nevertheless, it's important to make primary documents for the future to make

sure the past is never repeated.

If this document is analyzed by future researchers and students, I think they would understand some varying perspectives on the covid pandemic, they would see through the eyes of an upcoming college freshman what it was like to have the end of a senior year online, and the start of the college life from a webcam. Through this, it will teach these researchers and students why social distancing procedures and preventive measures are crucial to stopping the spread of a new virus, and how it's essential for younger ages to consider the health risk of older people and avoid social gatherings. Looking back on this Journal, it feels similar to what we look at in class, with first-hand accounts from the past. Just like the black death, a primary source from the time of an epidemic provides insight into the effect the virus had on people and how they responded to its quick spread. What I think the most important this that primary sources can tell the reader is how the perspective of the source differs from others, which always gives the reader a unique slice of the past.