

World History 125  
Lauren Maccoux  
11/13/2020  
Primary Source Reflection

**\*See attached video for pictures of the UW Eau Claire campus in the fall of 2020 with changes due to the Covid-19 pandemic.**

Covid-19 is the top concern on people's minds around the world. The virus affects the biggest cities, small towns, as well as college campuses such as the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire. The uncertainty that comes with it, is the most frightening part. Overnight my whole daily routine could change with a new closing or erupted outbreak. As a new freshman at UWEC, I am having to not only adjust to living away from home, meeting new people, and starting a new phase in life but also on top of it all an unprecedented virus. I have felt loneliness and nervousness because of Covid-19 on the college campus and continue to feel uneasy not knowing what is going to happen in the future.

I chose to create a video log as my primary source because I feel like it accurately shows the physical objects and changes that lend themselves to the emotional challenges that college students are feeling. For example, showing a physical mask that I must wear inside every building shows how hard it is to connect with people when there is a piece of cloth covering my mouth. Showing the physical distance dots on the floor will make future generations understand the loneliness I feel having to be six feet apart from other college students. I also believe that including physical signs and objects makes the situation seem more believable. Future generations might be able to look back on my video and put themselves in my position and understand life during a pandemic better.

While choosing what to make, I also thought about primary sources from past events and what I found to be most powerful even though every media is important. I found that pictures

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from the Great Depression or World Wars made me understand the event better by being able to picture myself in a paused moment of history. Like pictures from past events, my video log of pictures, videos, and words is a primary source because it was created by me during the Covid-19 pandemic. The source is from 2020 which is when Covid-19 is affecting the world.

Future generations of students and researchers could learn about guidelines that were frequently used to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 from my video log. Antigen testing, physical distancing, wearing masks, and sanitizing are all ways to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and I highlighted them all and showed how they are put into practice at UWEC. They could also better understand the emotions that were felt during the Covid-19 pandemic such as loneliness by seeing the physical distance dots and actual quarantine building.

Even though my video log uses more advanced technology than people had in the time periods we have been studying in class, my primary source can still portray the same feelings and answers that we have found in visual primary sources such as political cartoons or advertisements. For example, the slave advertisement that I analyzed for class helped me picture the ad hung up on a building and made the idea of slavery more realistic and I intend for my pictures to make Covid-19 seem more realistic too. Just like the primary sources that I analyzed for class; my primary source will answer questions about the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.

All primary sources have the same overarching purpose, which is to provide future generations with ways to understand the past and without primary sources history wouldn't be understandable and taught to generations to come. This purpose shows why documenting the Covid-19 pandemic through primary sources is critical.