Hello out there,

I would like to take this time to share how Covid-19 has impacted my life as a college student and how it has changed my way of thinking. When I first heard about the Coronavirus I was not very worried because nobody else seemed to be. I, like many people, did not expect there to be such an abrupt change in our lives. The day that it finally “clicked” was when I was checking my emails before my class and I received one from the school saying that classes would now have to be online. A lot of things went through my mind, my graduation, my dance show, would all that be canceled? It did not seem fair. Looking back at it now, it sounds selfish and ridiculous even. The bigger issues that I did not think of at that moment were that people were dying and that there would be people struggling with basic necessities.

The first thing that changed in terms of my education was that all of my classes were now online. This worried me because I have never taken a single online class. Since most of my classes are literature based, the only time I use my laptop is to do research or write a paper. The transition was definitely not easy especially for those of us who were new to the online world. I had to constantly, and I mean constantly, check for emails to see if any assignments were changed, extended or even removed. I was lucky that some of my Professors were very understanding and cut down the amount of work and extended the due dates. Other Professors, however, were not very helpful and did not seem to comprehend that online classes were not the same as our in- person meetings.

I think for me the hardest part of the transition online has been trying to adjust myself to a set schedule. Being at home does not give me that “school environment” that I need to focus. I was used to going to school, then work and then coming home and doing my homework. Since I am home all day it becomes difficult for me to separate school time and home time. I have more free time now that I don’t have a job and I am home all day. Unfortunately, that also means it gives me more time to procrastinate. I have always been very good about getting my assignments done and doing the best I can. During this time however, it has made me feel unmotivated. Part of it could be that I no longer have a graduation to look forward to or I can no longer walk around the beautiful campus and “feel” like a student. Being the first one in my family to graduate, this was supposed to be an exciting moment in my life that I was excited to share. Although I am still proud of what I have achieved it just doesn’t feel as “real” as I would want it to.

During this time, I have been able to accept these conflicting feelings and deal with them the best I can. I feel grateful to be alive and that my family is safe at home. I am now learning what truly makes me happy when I no longer have a “role” to do in society. I am getting back to reading books for fun like I used to and I’m spending more time with my siblings. The coronavirus might have taken away some things from me but it has also made me realize that I need to stop taking things for granted. Yes, I miss hanging out with my friends, I miss going to eat at restaurants, and I miss smiling at strangers without a mask on. However, I want to think that when we go back to our old lives we can appreciate our health, our family and things that seemed “usual”.

Sincerely,

Lesley Huizar