



Telling Our Stories: Western's Response to COVID-19

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Going into freshman year I was looking forward to getting a fresh start out of high school, enjoying the beautiful Western campus, and meeting new people. When Covid 19 hit it March, I was expecting to have a week taken from my senior year at most. The week turned into a month, and before I knew it my senior year was gone. No prom, real graduation, and most saddening was not being able to say goodbye to peers I knew I'd probably never see again. I still had hope for a normal Freshman year at college, but as Fall quarter drew closer, it was looking like I was back in for some online classes. In September I moved into an apartment just off of campus with a friend from high school and was excited to begin my education. My first week of classes went okay, but it felt very disconnected. Not being in a physical space, surrounded by your peers was something I really missed. Most of my professors required that at least our cameras be turned on, but most students didn't. I really was enjoying my class content, but I had a hard time keeping up. Being a full time student, with nothing to do but stare at a computer screen really began to wear on me. I had practically no motivation to keep up, but somehow I've managed. I'm currently about to finish up with my fall quarter and I have been able to finish my classes with decent grades. I'm certainly not looking forward to another quarter of online classes, but with a vaccine on the way, I have hope for in person classes soon. Hope is what is keeping me going right now. ## End of contributed text ##