



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

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Story contribution

I would like the future community/university to acknowledge the possibility that life as we know it can change in the blink of an eye. Your loved ones can be here one minute and not be here the next. The culmination of emotion in terms of appreciating those closest to me has never been more pertinent. This virus has not only halted a lot of the normalcy involved with day-to-day life but it's changed societies outlook on their own kind as a whole. Many are afraid to leave their homes at all, whether that be for groceries or to see their grandma or going to the gym, things we normally take for granted now pose as these outlandish ideas that could spread the virus further. Conveying the gravity of our modern situation through words, is potentially, an impossible task. Many have lost their loved ones, even more have lost their jobs or means of income because of the shutdowns that were initially enforced to limit the spread of the disease. Just now, nearly a year later, we are seeing restaurants open up at the cost of keeping all doors and windows open, along with the mandate that a mask be worn until seated at such congregates. Now, more than ever before, it seems the hierarchal system that has flourished for so long, is beginning to shed light on its prevalence in the USA. The friends and family I know that have kept their jobs has been a result of knowing the right person. Without these previous connections it's becoming exceedingly rare to see someone live the "American dream," as it were. While this was once the place where people of all walks of life came to achieve their goals, as time goes on it feels as though this is a dying concept. Maybe if we can get back to some type of normalcy and inclusion in terms of the people around us then we will start to see the light. Coming to a conclusion, enveloping all the topics mentioned. We have to respect and appreciate the world we know; we have to work to improve it and not just use/abuse it for personal gain. With a sense of caring and altruism, we can strive to mediate the destructive course we are currently on. Through educating our youth we can create a world that supports itself rather than an exclusive one that tears itself apart as everything remains a competition. It's going to be hard to recover from this time but it's certainly possible if we give our youth the purpose they need to prosper. An online learning environment has definitely limited our youth in terms of a proper education and consequently, has failed to give them the tools they need to succeed in this time of turmoil. It starts with setting the example, helping others when we can, being thoughtful and taking that extra minute to just listen, treating others with compassion and not violence. When differences cannot be set aside, it might be better to walk away rather than do something through malice or a time of clouded judgement. It starts with us wanting the world to be the best it can be but more simply, us being the best we can be every day and teaching that to our early generations through example.

End of contributed text from Story ID: 33 - Anonymous