



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

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COVID-19 has certainly taken its toll on normal day to day life compared to how it was prior to the pandemic. As we have seen the pandemic spread and expand, our daily routines have been altered in order to fit the guidelines for our new norm. For me personally, the transition to online classes has brought about many opportunities as well as difficulties. My schedule has been altered in a way that proved to be beneficial for my work schedule, but required me to make many personal sacrifices such as living in a place away from my university. Through this experience I have learned a lot about myself, but I have also struggled through the changes in my typical day to day life. When COVID-19 first made its way to Bellingham and our university shut down, I, along with everyone else had no idea what online school was gonna look like. With the circumstances, I decided to go home to Spokane, Washington and finish up my quarter away from school and in the company of my immediate family. I was under the impression that classes would resume in a couple of weeks at most, and everything would be back to normal. As time went on and the virus showed no signs of slowing down, I finally realized my stay in Spokane might last a bit longer than expected. I took my extra time as an opportunity to work more hours and save up money. This for me was an opportunity that not everyone was so lucky to have. Going to work was a risk everyday, but I was very grateful to have the privilege of a job. Although online school allowed me to have a more flexible schedule with work, I struggled, and still struggle, with the logistics of online classes. Without having in person meetings and a reason to be on campus, I have found my motivation to do school work lower significantly. It is much easier to push off assignments and procrastinate without having classes in person to motivate me to get it done. With this challenge of online classes I have had to push myself and work on self motivation and time management. I was used to having a strict schedule of classes and sports, and with both being cancelled, I have really had to focus on pushing myself on my own. This has been a struggle, but I can see myself improving and achieving a more productive lifestyle. At this point in the pandemic, it is clear that many individuals are getting tired and sick of the quarantine lifestyle. The differing views on how to overcome the issues that COVID-19 continue to present are furthering the divide between members of our nation. I think that everyone is adjusting to the circumstances of our new norm in different ways, but it is important to take personal accountability and do what we can to stop the spread of the virus. I think that because it is so new, certain aspects have been handled well and others not so well. With something that is so unknown, everyone is learning, but doing one's own part by wearing a mask, socially distancing, and staying home if you are sick are some norms that people around the world need to adjust to and incorporate into their day to day life. Overall, COVID-19 has altered my life in ways I would have never expected. I will remember this time for the rest of my life and take away many important lessons. Although it hasn't been easy, it has been an opportunity to learn more about myself and my peers. With this pandemic occurring for about a year now, the information and tools are out there in order to help slow and stop the spread. It is up to us as individuals to do our part.

End of contributed text from Story ID: 40 - Anonymous