



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

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Story contribution

I am a student in my senior year of my bachelors. The pandemic has changed my life dramatically during what I thought would be a really exciting time for me. I started my college journey in my hometown at a community college, and began going to Western already a year through my degree. My first two years here I did not make many friends due to a controlling relationship, so now that I can't go out and meet new people, my social circle generally consists of just a few friends. I can't see them that often because they are generally less cautious than I am of catching COVID. Not being able to socialize and meet people has resulted in an overwhelming feeling that the college experience I am paying for is only a tiny fraction of what it could be if I could go out and do all the things I wish I had done before. As an especially social person, I have noticed that social distancing has changed my daily schedule and even the way I interact with other people. Instead of waking up early and getting ready for the day, I lay in bed and watch a lecture then go on my phone for hours. Instead of feeling excited to talk to people, I feel anxious and drained. It saddens me to analyze how different I feel now than I did before the pandemic. One especially significant change to this year versus past years that has been weighing on me is that this time last year (early spring) when the sun starts shining and flowers start blooming, I would have been sitting on the grass in front of the library, along with tons of other people relishing in the warmth of a changing season. Now, the lawn is empty, the campus is empty. I am tired of being home and I wish people would just wear masks and keep their social circles small, that way we could get this over with and I could maybe have a normal college experience, while I am still young.

End of contributed text from Story ID: 49 - Anonymous