



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

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### Story contribution

At the start of the pandemic in March, I believed like many others that we would be back to "normal" quickly. I remember being in class and having a short conversation of the possibility of the schools closing for a small amount of time and thought nothing of it. I brushed it off due to not understanding the severity of the situation we were to encounter for the next year. When school switched to virtual learning, I was still able to go to my job. As restrictions and lockdowns were set in place I started to get less and less hours, eventually getting laid off. I decided it was the best decision for me to move back to hometown of Tacoma and save money while school was virtual. For some classes the switch to online learning was easy. Classes like Anthropology, English, and History can easily be taught through readings and zoom lectures. While classes like Biology and math were difficult to grasp through a computer screen. Most teachers I have had are accommodating to these difficult times and often extended due dates for students. The substance of these classes may be similar to in person learning but you really don't know what you have until you don't have it. The routine of going to a physical school every day gave me motivation for schoolwork. Sitting in front of a screen for hours on end in the same location makes the schoolwork feel less like learning and more of a "chore" that needs to get completed. Questions I could ask my professor after and before class seem harder to get answers from due to the delay in emails. I am in no way blaming the teachers either, most teachers are not knowledgeable in operating computers which makes teaching so much harder. The benefit I have found in staying home all the time is being able to be with your pet all day. I adopted a French bulldog puppy named Winston in August of 2020 and being able to be with him all day eases my anxiety and his. I am able to take him on walks and give him the love I wouldn't be able to if I was at school all day. I also was unhappy at my job and stayed due to the anxiety of quitting my job. Being laid off gave me the push I needed, I now have a better job that pays me well and is not at stake if another pandemic were to happen.

## End of contributed text from Story ID: 47 - Anonymous ##