



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

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Story contribution

In August of 2020, my partner and I moved into our first home together. Honestly, I think this is the best thing I did to help myself succeed during the pandemic. Having a constant companion and support system has been incredibly helpful. I chose Western because it was close to my family, so it was frustrating to be so close but not be able to see them. Due to the pandemic, I've been unemployed for most of the last year. This has its downsides, but it has given me the extra time I needed to be able to focus on school. Virtual learning is hard for me, I like the socialization and accountability of in person classes. I've had to work very hard to change my mindset about school, and put in 100% because it's important to me, not just because I don't want to face my professor while I'm turning in an assignment I know I could do better on. I've had to find other ways to add structure to my life, which have included journaling, setting daily goals for myself, and meditation. Surprisingly, my grades have been improving since the start of the pandemic, and I have found the material I'm learning about more interesting. The most helpful thing to my remote learning has been the professors that were understanding, and empathetic towards the struggles of adjusting. I've found that in classes that have flexible deadlines for assignments, my quality of work is better because I'm not stressed about making sure everything gets turned in by midnight. I think the most important thing for educators to know is that we're all learning, and some people will adjust to remote learning very quickly and will thrive in that environment, and some people will take a long time to adjust because they must completely restructure the way they learn. We're all human, and a little grace will go a long way.

End of contributed text from Story ID: 54 - Anonymous