



How COVID-19 Changed My Life

Virtual learning. I never imagined that virtual learning would be something that I would ever experience. I've been so used to going to school 5 days a week everyday and having a break on weekends and holidays. COVID-19 changed that for students all over the world. It all started in March of 2020. Nobody knew what was going on and nobody knew what to expect. After a few schools in my district decided to close down due to safety concerns, my school went ahead and did the same. My high school announced that we would be learning from our devices at home for 2 weeks. Little did we know that the 2 week break would turn into the rest of the school year.

I was honestly glad to have a break from school. I felt very bewildered with everything going on. All I would see on my phone was an increase in cases all over the states. COVID-19 was so unexpected for everyone, not just students, but for everyone. I was able to adjust and finish off my freshman year wonderfully. Going into sophomore year my school gave the option for students to attend school online, and I did. It was new to me having to join zoom and google meet calls every morning at 8am. But I was able to adjust and adapt and stay focused on my learning. I did that for a full school year and completed my sophomore year gloriously. Though COVID had its tragic effects on everyone, I truly think I've grown so much in the span of a year.

Focusing on myself is something I've always struggled with. I think as a teenager it's completely nor-

mal to have personal things we go through. We are just starting to learn more about ourselves. Doing things for myself for improvements was something that COVID helped me to start. Keeping myself engaged while stuck inside at home was a contributing factor to building up my confidence and believing in myself. I committed to begin working out and keeping myself active, and that was the best decision that I have ever made. I've always had the love for cooking and baking and I was able to improve my skills. Comparing myself with others was also another issue I struggled with. I was able to learn to love myself more for ME and not care of what others think. I also was able to develop myself more spiritually and this I consider as the most important impact COVID had on me. Walking in my journey with Jesus and learning and experiencing His love has made life so much greater.

Although the negative impact COVID -19 is having on many people's lives has gotten better, it is still far from over. Places have opened up including business, schools, event centers and so much more. But we still need to keep each other safe. It is important to get vaccinated to keep your loved ones, your friends, and your fellow neighbor safe. Wear your masks no matter your vaccination status to keep others safe and protected. Let's work together as a United Nation to beat COVID-19!

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