

Covid-19 Reflection

For the past two years, the Covid-19 pandemic has been one of the world's most pressing crises. When we first heard of Covid-19, we all assumed it was nothing more than a silly virus like the ones we'd seen before. If I were to travel back in time to March 2020 and tell my seventeen-year-old self what has occurred in the world, I would laugh in my face. This pandemic has thrown many people's lives upside down by disrupting how they learn, work, travel, etc. Although the pandemic has had several negative effects on the world, one of the most significant outcomes I would like to discuss is how the pandemic drastically affected people's perspectives on life.

People's views and perspectives on life have shifted dramatically as a result of the pandemic, for better or worse. The BLM movement was growing rapidly while Covid-19 rose. The Black Lives Matter movement is a call to action to stop the brutalization of African Americans in America and expose incidences of brutality, such as the ways in which Black people are intentionally kept powerless. This movement was not formed to pose problems, and yet many individuals in America were opposing merely due to a lack of awareness on the issue. Individuals who opposed BLM claimed it was founded on hatred for the white race, which resulted in the creation of the contradictory "All Lives Matter" movement. People were extremely mad at the phrase "black lives matter" and protested that "all lives matter" even though this was a movement created to bring light to African American unfairness. The streets were filled with signs, either BLM or all lives matter, resulting in numerous violent clashes between individuals. The pandemic shutdown aided the BLM protests in becoming the largest in the United States. Peaceful BLM protests were taking place around the country, however they quickly devolved into riots due to racist groups and police brutality against the protestors. There were individuals of all races rallying for the BLM movement and attempting to make an impact, but there were also many groups spewing hateful and misleading information about BLM. At the peak of Covid-19, people were exceedingly violent and hateful, and black business owners were attacked and their establishments were vandalized. Several African Americans were brutally murdered during the

movement. Although this is still an issue, because Covid -19 forced everyone to stay at home everyone was focused on the news at the time and everyone across the world finally took notice to the brutality towards minorities. I believe Covid-19 and its shutdown finally caused people to start listening and paying attention to minorities, but at what cost? The deaths of minorities and riots?

The movement was the work of the people, but I am grateful for Covid-19 because I believe it played a significant part in bringing the movement to the attention of the public. The pandemic, I believe, taught myself and many others to be grateful and appreciative of our privilege. It taught us not to be ignorant and to view the world through a wider perspective. Our society is finally no longer frightened of standing up for and protecting minorities, and I personally credit Covid-19 for helping many individual grow aware and see life from a different perspective.