

Anna Martorella

Mr.Dubow

Basic Writing

7 October 2020

Finding myself during Covid

March 15th everyone's lives changed for the worst, or so I thought. Nine months back my father was already telling me about the dangers of Covid. Since he is a journalist, he had all of the first-hand sources of this virus. Somehow through all of this, I found myself temporarily residing in Florida.

Through the undoubtful times Covid has offered us all, pieces of myself were discovered that I never knew I needed.

Sunshine already burned my shoulders out of the airport, it felt as if life were normal again. Florida felt like a dream. In New York, most of my family and friends were complaining on how restaurants and bars wouldn't even open. While in Florida, it's like Covid didn't exist. My father wanted me to make the best out of the worst situation thrown at us. Florida was the option. My passion for tennis led me down there to become a better on the court and to possibly have the aspiration to go professional one day. Without Covid, I would never have the chance to go down to Florida to play as much as I am now. A deadly virus gave me the option to become a better version of myself, and to expand my horizons. Tennis led me to so many people on and off the court, and I am extremely grateful for that. Saddlebrook Tennis Academy helped me meet the people I now call my home.

Before March 15th I would never have met some of my close friends down here or my boyfriend. St.

Pete beach is now one of my favorite spots and is something I am getting tattooed on by body in November. St. Pete beach introduced me to my boyfriend and best friend all in one. Something as special as that is not easy to find. Throughout my time in Florida I've spent more days with him than

I can count. The memories I shared with him truly are priceless and I wouldn't reverse time for anything. Everything happens for a reason and I am always a strong believer in that statement.

Unraveling my past to one-person, made me a better version of myself. My past mistakes and unhappy moments seem to fade away now. I never felt this open before, and I know I won't go back to how I once was. Covid gave me the chance to get up and do something positive with my life. The first few weeks I spent wallowing around like everyone else. Then I understood life constantly knocks

us down. It's our choice to get up and fight it or lay down and let it finish us off.

"I'll see you soon". I phrase I hope I don't have to say to the life I've created in Florida. New York is where I'm born and raised but, isn't where I belong. Covid has wrecked everyone's family one way or another. The virus has even killed some of my family friends, and I miss them dearly. But where there is bad there must be good. Covid has given me the positive light in this situation to get up,

keep fighting, and to keep loving.