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Covid-19 has altered my life significantly in these last few months. I remember in the early days of hearing about the virus, there were memes being spread around the internet. Fast forward a few weeks and we are hearing rumors about schools closing down and the states shutting down businesses. The virus caused a widespread paranoia in the United States that I observed in my family and close friends. My parents, along with most other families, locked down their homes and did not allow anyone to go out in public unnecessarily. My social life literally changed over night, from hanging out with friends every day after school and on the weekends, to not being able to step outside my own home the next day. Initially, I was concerned my mental health would suffer, but eventually I learned to adapt to our new situation by reminding myself it won't last forever and just accepting my reality is the same for billions of other people in the world. I also learned to appreciate my position as an American, where we have a government powerful enough to protect us during a pandemic. In many other countries, there is little to no protection for its citizens. I realized that even though being at home every day for months at a time is awful, however much better than the conditions people endure in other parts of the world.

The pandemic has definitely impacted my finances for the worst. I work at my local recreation center as part of the athletics staff. I scorekeep adult sports, referee youth sports, and

I'm also a camp counselor in the summer. When the lockdown first began, I was immediately out of work since all the athletic programs were shut down. I was being compensated for a short while by my employer, raking in around 200 dollars a month for not doing anything whatsoever. It was nice, but definitely not enough to keep me satisfied as I am attending college in the fall and need money in order to survive on my own. My father was also laid off due to budget cuts at his company during the pandemic. It has not been easy at all financially for anyone I imagine. I recently applied for unemployment in hopes I can get my funds up in preparation for school. I also have no clue if my school will be physically open in the fall or if it will all be online. These are very uncertain times and I'm doing my best to stay positive even if our current circumstances do not warrant it.

My life is still similar in some ways, mainly the activities I partake in at home. I usually play video games with my friends I know in real life and also people I have met online. I do have a great circle of people to talk to and socialize so my social life hasn't gone completely out of the window. I have also had an excessive amount of time to just think about life. Before the pandemic, when I was relatively busy every day, I did not get a whole lot of time to think critically about myself or life in general. The extra down time has allowed me to open up my mind to new things and see things from different perspectives, such as those in underdeveloped countries and what they are going through during the pandemic as we speak. I have also been reading and learning about history and comparing it to our situation in the modern day. I find it hilarious when people act as if this pandemic is the end of the world, when people just a few hundred years ago did not even know what a virus was, and many people died because of it. I

have not only developed a new appreciation for the life we have, but also a new understanding of the way people live and have lived throughout history.

Works Cited

There are no sources that I used to write this essay. This is all from my own experiences and recollection of the pandemic.