

## The Little Light Above My Bed

Right before the big shut down began I was walking around Target looking through the room decor aisle and I stumbled across these cute little string lights that were on clearance, I had to take this opportunity to decorate my room since we had just finished painting the walls. So I bought and hung them above my bed. Once quarantine began I had many long nights and pulling many all nighters. Since those lights were bright enough so that I could see but dim enough so no one else knew I was awake, I had them on pretty much all night every night. Those lights were my illumination while I finished my chemistry homework at 1 am from online school, they were on while I stayed awake watching movies or binge watching Grey's Anatomy, and they were also often part of my zoom background.

Every time I sit at my desk and look over at my lights I remember all those nights in quarantine and how different life is now. While I'm happy that things are starting to go back to normal with us being able to go back to school, I can't help but also miss being able to stay home and even sleeping the extra half hour it takes to get ready and drive to school. Although distance learning was hard we found a way to make it work. During the pandemic although we had time to reflect and really focus on ourselves, I believe it was very difficult to do so because of the uncertainty and fear we had of the unknown and what would result of this virus. As for the safety protocols such as wearing a mask, I have gotten used to and it no longer bothers me. These little lights are important to me because they are a reminder of all the times we experienced during the pandemic and how it changed us for the better.

