

### The Various Emotions of a 21 Year Old in Quarantine

For this journal, I want to talk about my time as a senior in college during COVID-19. I'm going to be honest when the panic of COVID-19 started to hit the US, I was not super worried about it. I still thought I'd be able to go to class and work but just with precautions. Those small luxuries were taken from me without warning which was a hard transition. I find that I am a very independent person. So going from my carefree college lifestyle to living at home, quarantining with my parents has not been the easiest. I never really thought that I'd miss in-person lectures or standing for five-hour shifts but as I sit in my bed writing this I feel like I took advantage of those small things. When quarantine started, I needed to figure out a routine so that I wouldn't just sit in bed all day. I make sure to exercise in the mornings, get some homework done, take a walk, etc., just to spice up my day so I don't get cabin fever. Obviously, the occasional zoom happy hour with my friends is enjoyable as well. There are perks to this quarantine, I have been babysitting my nephew while my brother and sister in law have to work so it's been really cool to be able to spend so much time with him. Also, I've watched over 30 movies which honestly, I don't know if I should be proud of that. The biggest struggle I've had is missing the last half of my senior year of college. I'm sad this is time with my friends and other peers that I will not get back. It's been hard even thinking about my graduation day as it inches closer to the date. I know my academic accomplishments are not going unrecognized but, you know that feeling walking across that graduation stage whether it was a kindergarten, middle school, high school graduation stage that feeling was incredible. I remember feeling very happy and proud of myself during that time and so it's upsetting that I won't have that feeling during my biggest accomplishment yet. Many people say that college graduation is not that great so I'm not missing out on much but not even having the chance to understand that is why I feel frustrated. I could ramble on about minor inconveniences during this time but I almost feel selfish for doing so considering people are literally dying. I hope our world tries to figure out a new way to live without having to quarantine so that life can go back to feeling even the slightest bit normal again.