

Every time I write one of these entries, I feel the need to mention or even emphasize that I've been an online student for many years. My whole world has revolved around the safety of my own bedroom. It's lonely, and it's certainly an isolated life. I wouldn't argue with anyone about that. That's how I imagine a lot of the world has been since the start of the pandemic. I imagine it's much harder for those who had something to lose, like their campus being closed down or not being able to go to the gym anymore.

I tried to (virtually) surround myself with a lot of people in 2020. It was relatively easy for me as I am a child of the internet, so to speak. But even that can spring up its own issues. People I knew suffered in their own ways, and the pandemic made it even harder for them. School, work, relationships...

***My simple hope is for the COVID-19 pandemic  
to say its farewells and never return.***

As for me personally, I could do with more productive distractions and goals. I feel like my awareness has diminished considerably. My memorization and reasoning skills have weakened. I want to break out my old SAT and ACT workbooks to review, maybe even my Indonesian workbooks while I'm at it. I always say that I trust my past self more than my present, and I don't think that's a good way to live. Perhaps this way, I'll gain more confidence in myself.

I'm still taking French classes at my university, and I'm reminded every day how hard it is without a community to speak with regularly. One where you would easily find in your own language class. At this very moment, I'm not sure how I'm going to progress with it. However, I have the next six months to make use of my French classes and its connections. In the next six months, I want to be conversational in French.

Other than my academic goals, I want to be in a better place mentally and emotionally. This one content creator on YouTube I used to watch daily, Philip DeFranco, shared a video last month about his own struggles during the pandemic. I only watched it the other day, but his message stood out to me. He said, *"I'm better than this."*

***2020 was rough. I don't want 2021 to be a repeat.***