

The year 2020 began with a surprising and different start than any other year due to the spread of the coronavirus. In the beginning, there was not much attention towards the subject since we thought it was going to surpass after a few weeks. However, as the number of people being tested positive for the virus increased, the precaution and fear of the public also skyrocketed. The pandemic crisis did not only affect those who caught the virus, but it delayed everyone's school, work, and life. Due to the virus's high rate of contagiousness, it demanded the government shut down schools, businesses, and all forms of social gatherings. Particularly in California, Governor Newsom declared state-wide quarantine lockdown on March 19th, 2020. As a student, my life and daily routine have changed drastically as the pandemic crisis continued. Sacramento State officially transitioned all classes online to the rest of the semester on March 12th in an announcement made by President Nelsen. This has made both positive and negative impacts on the lives of students and faculty.

The lockdown posed a new set of challenges within my daily life due to all the new changes. One of the biggest ones is not being able to socially interact with others, which is one of the main activities of a college student's life. Another challenge is not being able to perform the scheduled plans I have set for myself such as attending my relative's graduation ceremony, traveling to New Orleans for a service trip, or even hug my best friend when she got into nursing school. Even though the pandemic crisis brought forth many restrictions, it has placed various positive impacts on my life as well. I found more time and space to accomplish my schooling assignments and work while at home. The lockdown allowed me to spend more time with my family members, especially with my grandparents. It has also encouraged me to stay productive and be more creative with my time. For example, I created a list of goals and skills that I would like to accomplish during this time, such as learn how to barbeque or read a new book.

One of the biggest changes that have happened during this pandemic for me is how much more informed and interested I am in politics and national news in general. Given more free time in between my classes, I would watch different news coverage on the current events and progress of the virus. I watched the President's daily briefings on the virus, the Governor's everyday announcements, and other podcasts upon how the government is handling this situation. Before this pandemic, I have never dedicated any time or thoughts to my political views, mostly because I saw no need in addressing my own bias. However, after these last few months, I learned that politics is not just being a part of a particular party, left or right, but it is about the ability to fully recognize what is happening in the country, fairly address the issue at hand and freely decide for myself how I would like to leaders in power to proceed with the solution. When watching the news, I tried to preserve a sense of neutrality to prevent discrimination from one party onto another. I believe that President Trump and the current administration is doing a phenomenal job in dealing with this pandemic crisis. A few of the actions that have been imposed such as the daily briefings, the detailed recovery economic plan, the high production of ventilators, the increased federal support for state officials have benefited the citizens and the country greatly during this time. The role of government has increased tremendously during this crisis to support those who are both directly and indirectly affected by the virus. By providing more needed materials to hospitals, such as ventilators and medicines, the government has directly helped to slow down the spread of Corona. For those who are not tested positive for the virus, their lives have been negatively impacted also. 30 million Americans have filed for unemployment due to the virus; therefore, the stimulus checks and the Paycheck Protection Program have become great government resources to help Americans stay afloat during these unprecedented times.

Being informed on what is happening and hearing different perspectives from credible resources, I have also learned to value the importance of the constitutional right of a free press and free speech in our country. Having to be born and raised in a Communist country like Vietnam, I have never experienced such a thing as freedom of speech before. Therefore, having the opportunity to be a part of a nation that allows different opinions to be shared on a national level for the goods of the citizens is extremely profound.

The Coronavirus has taken too many lives from all different types of people in various stages of life in our world. It has inflicted pain and caused heartache to everyone in society. The pandemic crisis did not only kill many innocent lives, but it also shut down the economy and impacted all our lives in one way or another. As much suffering and delay this pandemic have brought forth, it has also served as a reminder towards the significance of gratitude and unity in this world. In many new and unexpected ways, this pandemic has brought us closer together as a state, as a nation, and as a global family.