

Life in Quarantine; Summer 2020

I arrived at my home in Philadelphia a few days after my school, Duquesne University, informed the students that we were to finish out the rest of the semester remotely. I was not ready to go home. I have always loved my family very much, but I dreaded the thought of being trapped in isolation indefinitely with no one to talk to except my 4 family members. I shared a room with my brother so I knew I would have no privacy. I assumed I was bound to go crazy by the time we were aloud out of the house again. I couldn't play sports, couldn't work out, couldn't reunite with my friends from home after not seeing them. Everything seemed to be headed towards a downward spiral. After about 2-3 weeks into the quarantine, I started to realize I wasn't as unhappy with the situation as I thought I'd be. In fact, I had been enjoying myself and the company of my family very much. It was the first time in a while that we had spent such a large amount of time together, and as a result, we and became much closer as a family. We had been playing card games, watching new television shows, and making dinners together. I feel like I learned more about my family members during quarantine than I had during the entire 2019 year. In addition, with limited amount of possible activities to do during the day, I decided I would devote a lot of that new-found time into my studies. I had enough time on my hands that I was able to work hard to improve upon my ability to stay discipline as I study, which is something I have always struggled with. As a result, not only did I exceed my expectations at the conclusion of the semester, I am also working to transfer the knowledge I gained into future semesters to come. Therefore, I personally did not dread living in quarantine like I thought I would, however, I feel like it would be unfair for me to say that quarantine was actually a good thing for the country overall. I know many people, including my own father, who struggled financially during the peak of the pandemic. I am sure my father enjoyed being able to spend time with his family, but unlike me he has kids to feed and bills to pay. Fortunately, he is now back to work but the amount of stress put on him was enough to outweigh any benefits the pandemic provided. Hence, to sum up the summer of 2020 living in quarantine, I don't want to make it sound like it was a much-needed event because, though maybe not for me personally, it put a lot of innocent people in economic shambles.