



Write to Educate

Scholarship Contest Winner

Tatiana Mason
Grand Ledge High School

Essay Topic: Examine the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on our society (human interactions, schooling, the economy, tourism, etc.).

The air was crisper, waters cleaner and animals were happier. Humans were dying, but the planet seemed to be getting healthier. People were spending more time with their family. Life was being appreciated and nothing was taken for granted. Experiencing a Pandemic is life changing. This global phenomenon has affected every sector of our lives. It has affected how we socialize, our education process, our economic security, and our outlook of the future. We talk about getting back to normal, but how do we know this isn't our new normal?

We have learned to social distance, wear a mask, stay home if you are sick and wash and sanitize frequently. Looking back, it seems like common sense. Sick people should stay home. Today that is expected, but previously it was frowned upon. Without a doctor's note students and employees were penalized. Now we realize that germs spread quickly. After everyone is vaccinated, will we go back to the philosophy of making it to school or work anyway you can? Will we be more sensitive to those with weather immune systems or have pre-existing conditions? I believe that we are becoming a society that cares a little more. Yes, we still have selfish people, but I have seen my community rise to help those in need. I have seen my school make unpopular choices to keep students safe. Yes, sacrifices have been made, but it is best for our society.

Online school has been a huge learning curve for students, teachers, and administrators. We all have had to learn to be more technology savvy. Every student doesn't thrive in this environment, but many of us didn't have a choice. Zoom opened our lives and homes to our teachers. It has allowed our teachers to communicate and interact with us in real time. We have used it to have meetings, study sessions, and college interviews. We have been able to stay connected and continue learning. Our computers and phones connect us to people and places that we could not see in person. Virtual tours of museums, famous sites and college campuses allowed us to visit more places than we could physically. This is great if you have a support system, a computer and a reliable internet. Less fortunate students that do have this will continue to fall further behind. This is not beneficial for them or the future of our country.

We will all go back into the world, travel and go to concerts. I just think that everyone will appreciate it more because the rules will be different. It'll take some time before everyone is comfortable traveling again especially internationally. It will be an adjustment getting used to temperature checks, mask requirements and even a vaccine passport that many countries have implemented. Traveling can be expensive, and it may get more expensive because of the global recession in some countries and depression in others. That vaccine passport will further divide the world into groups and raise ethical issues. Not everyone has the access to care and will continue to widen socioeconomic and racial gaps. Ultimately one cannot truly know what the long-term effects of Covid-19 will be, but we as a society can try and contribute to make those effects positive and combat the inequalities that may arise.

Federally Insured
by NCUA



LAFCU
YOUR CREDIT UNION FOR LIFE