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History 129  
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## Second Writing Assignment

**Prompt: WE WOULD ALLOW A SIX PAGE PAPER ON YOUR REFLECTIONS ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. HOW HAS IT AFFECTED YOU, YOUR FAMILY? WHAT DO YOU THINK THE FUTURE HOLDS? How does it connect with some of the things you have learned in this class? 6 PAGES**

The coronavirus has affected many families throughout the world and many in various different ways, whether that be the loss of employment, the loss of life, this pandemic has affected everyone it has touched in one way or another. Outside of school I work in the import and export business, most of my business stems from Asia, and the Middle East. As a direct result of the virus/pandemic my business was affected dramatically, I was let off for a month without pay, and was unsure if I was able to even return to work when all of this chaos subsided. For once I understand the meaning why it is so important to find and maintain a secure job.

My profession is one that is based around wantings rather than needs, this means that my income suffers when there are things like this natural disaster that happens, the reason being is because when people do not have enough to support their basic day to day life they will not indulge in luxurious things. In terms of the way that it has affected my overall health this has been minimal, there was a time in the last few weeks where I felt that I was extremely tired, and had a slight headache, out of fear of the rest of my family getting the virus from me being ill, I went and got tested, it ended up being negative.

The next aspect of my life that the virus has taken over has been the routine that I had set for myself prior to all of this, I was an early riser as I have said before that most of my work

is with the Middle East or Asia so they are all on different time zones it means that I have to be adjusted and either conducting work very early in the morning or in the afternoon, I opted to do the work in the morning. This schedule that I had created for myself something that I took much pride in and something that I wanted to continue to do for a long time as it had brought me a sense of structure and joy that I can honestly say I miss the most out of all of this, as the days seem to be the same when we are all in quarantine and I sometimes if not most of the time forget it the day. I find it harder and harder each day to find the motivation to do the work that is asked of me, the school work that is asked of me, as I feel as though there is just the same sort of work being done and no change up at all which is the hardest part of all this.

I have not been one to complain or even express how I feel much about anything, but I do miss the human contact other than the main members of my family which include my sister, my mother, father, brother, and relatives that do live with us. It is something that I had taken for granted prior to this and did not think it was important to have, I have thoroughly gone against the belief I had prior and realize the difference between living and surviving. When I gave this more thought I came to the realization that the term surviving is a term given to just getting through the day with enough nutrition and enough endurance to get the next one, but the true meaning of happiness is given to the word living and that is through the embrace and the companionship of other people. I believe that there will become, if this does not subside in the next few weeks or months, or even worse if we continue to go to society and live a life that is masked either figuratively or literally, it will be as worse if not even worse than being in the situation that we are in now of not being able to go into the homes of the people we love out of risks of giving them the virus or not being able to go to restaurants, or not being in groups of 10

people or greater, I believe this will be one of the most dangerous things to happen to society because people will feel that there's something wrong with them because they are going out and doing the social things that used to make them happy but not in the way that used to make them happy as well and this will mess with and take over the heads of people.

My mother is a woman that strives for the social interaction she has with her friends, she is in a book club, cooking club, and volunteers at the school that my brother goes to. Nonetheless she's a very social person that finds fulfillment from helping others and having interactions with them as well, she has been like this for as long as I can remember and has not changed. This is why when the state home order began I saw a new side of her come out she could do you to have social interactions, this time they were on the phone and not as long as they were prior, she began to speak with her friends that she has not spoken to in a very long time, and even to the ones that I didn't even know she had. One day when we were having a conversation I asked her why are you so much more social now and literally on the phone for multiple hours a day even with other countries and family from other countries as well. She responded to me by saying that there's two ways that people can go when things go bad that is either together, or apart, she said that this had not been the first struggle that she had to deal with in her life and will probably not be the last but she refuses to go through this alone she also said that by the unity of people that these things will be easier and in some cases doable as not all people have the same mental fortitude that others have and that it is the job of the people who do have this fortitude to help the ones that do not.

The next person in my life to be affected by the virus is someone very important to me and that is my father, my father is also in the business of providing luxurious goods to people and

works in downtown Los Angeles. When this all started he had a very positive outlook about the whole thing and would always reassure us that nothing would happen and that he had figured out to the smallest of details how he was going to provide for us and our family and the family that was staying with us, during this time if anything were to go wrong. My father still has not worked since the date of this has begun. That is because there's no work for him to do, the building and where he works is closed because of the virus and thankfully the landlord has not required rent to be paid for the building or the tenants for a three month grace period. Needless to say my father has become very stressed out over the last few weeks as the virus seemingly is getting worse and worse and there is no signs that point in the direction of him going back to work or even there being a slow down of the spread of the virus. He's become very paranoid about the things he does and the people he sees, and he does not allow anyone in our family to go out of the house other than the one block radius to walk our dog, and cleans and sanitizes any and everything that comes into our home including the packages of the foods that we purchased. I do find this a little overboard as I feel as though we are suppressing our immune systems quite a bit by doing so and then the research I've done showed that this is detrimental because if we continue to do this then small things like the common cold or the flu will be catastrophic and people will fall ill.

The other people that live in my home are my grandparents (my mother's mother and father), and their son my uncle. They live with us because they had lost the ability to care for themselves a few years back, and due to the language barrier that they have and the fact that they did not like the retirement home it was decided that they would live with us. This caused a lot of argument between my mother and I, as well as a lot of arguments in my family amongst my

father and mother eventually my father and mother came to the agreement that my grandparents and uncle will live with us but live in the back house of the home so as to feel that there is some sort of home like atmosphere. My grandmother is 76 years of age and my grandfather is 86 years of age my uncle which is the youngest of eight kids is 36 years old and has fallen on some hard times which is why he moved back home a couple of years ago but could not sustain taking care of his parents, which are my grandparents, and working. He works in the medical field as a physical therapy technician meaning that in hospitals with patients who have got surgeries that decreased their range of movement, post surgery, not directly but a few days after, he would go in to their rooms and work with them to get them moving again and regain function, muscle and strength in whatever limb it is that had gotten surgery. Unfortunately because of the virus there are no surgeries going on in hospitals which means there's no need for a physical therapist technician, so he was told to stay home until further notice without pay. This affected us because he was someone that would help out with the bills and the payments for the many medications that my grandparents take, but he has no income right now so that is not something that is feasible for him to do. It causes many arguments between my father, mother and him because they believe that he should've had some sort of savings to fall back on or the capability to work in another field should have something happened.

Wether I feel that all of this connects to a topic that we discussed in the class is something that I noticed in the readings and that is the mention of a higher power or deity, in the readings this deity is referred to as g-d, in my home religion is a very big thing is implemented throughout not just our day-to-day lives but the things that we do and say and even the way we act. My father is a very religious man that goes to temple once a week and prays to g-d in many different

ways but regardless does his praying every day, when I speak to him about the fears I have of what will happen next and if we will even survive he responds saying “it is in the hands of the higher powers”, and this is something that I’ve noticed in the readings also is that there’s this believe the world that we live in is controlled by humans rather we I living in the world G-d. This is something that I find relatively easy to do, and that a lot of people throughout the world also find easy to do, and it poses the question for me of why I was so easily able to do this and I believe it has to do with the fact of how i was raised and the values that were implemented in me, I also wondered how people who don’t think this way cope with situations like this, and it is something interesting to think about.