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History 129
14 May 2020

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

This virus has changed the lives of every single person in some way shape or form throughout not just this country and state but the entire world. I am a premed student that is a history major at UCLA, prior to this pandemic I worked in a pulmonologist private practice and this is the type of physician that is called upon when things like this happen. During my time working for the doctor we saw so many patients towards the last few weeks of working for him prior to being told to stay at home because of the order, and all private practices being shut down, we began to see an influx of a lot more patients with the COVID-19 gene. This gene anomaly was one that was not the super bug that we are seeing today but just a strand of Covid-19 and the patients who got it we're told to go home and rest and have a lot of fluids because there was no cure. The doctor I worked for also worked in Cedar-Sinai hospital which is a private hospital that is actually UCLA affiliated in Beverly Hills California. Once he had to close his private practice, and because he had done his residency in Cedar-Sinai they asked him to come there and practice medicine on the many hundreds of patients that were about to come in with the virus. Throughout my time at the office he and I became very close and he gave me the opportunity to shadow him which was something that not alot of people had done but none

have done because he was not someone that enjoyed being shadowed as he felt the people shadowing him we're nuisance.

The part of this whole pandemic that bothers me the most, being someone that's going into medicine is that I feel extremely helpless. This is one of the reasons that I even begin the journey to go into medicine was to never feel like there was nothing that I could do for someone or some thing whether that be a situation or a person in a bad situation, I unfortunately realized very quick that there is actually absolutely nothing I can do and I must just sit here and try and be comforting and helpful to those around me. I live with my mother, father, two sisters, and my dog, before all of this we were not a family that sat down regularly other than on Friday nights to respect our religion, and have dinners, but this is something that we have now begun to do and I'm starting to enjoy the company them and all of us of each other. Also prior to the pandemic I would visit my grandparents once every week on Sundays and take them out so that they could see the outside and we could walk and be together, but that is not something that is feasible now because of the virus. The reason that this is so bothersome for me is because my grandfather fell ill roughly around a year ago. He has advanced Parkinson's meaning that every day his range of motion and his speech deteriorate little by little. I am a very big advocate for family time and it is unfortunate that family time is something that most people do or most people turn to whenever something goes wrong in their lives or or when they need something. This is the trend that I saw in the world and my family interactions because we spent more time actually being together and less time fighting when we were forced to be together.

My father works in the jewelry business in downtown Los Angeles, he has not gone to work much other than a few days to check up on the office and the things that he had left behind.

This has been extremely hard on him as his entire life he has worked, not taking days off, him and my mother fight more now and that is because of the financial burdens that are to come, it is similar to the situation 2008 and the economic downfall that is to come. In the year 2008 I was 10 years old and I remember all of that you're very very vividly as it was not a very good year for me and my family. We lost our home due to the crash of the economy and had to move. We were living in an apartment that barely had heating, no TV and no no cell phone service or landline service as well. The toughest part of the situation was the fact that there was nothing that I was able to do to help my father or even to help my family as I was just a 10-year-old kid, The issue was that I had every idea and understanding of exactly what was happening around me. This is how I feel again now for two reasons the first being that there's nothing I can do as I do not have enough credentials or even med school knowledge to be able to assist at all in the corona pandemic that we see today, but also because my father is stressed and now has a 22-year-old man I'm able to to see and understand exactly what my father is feeling and how much of a load he is under, as he is the only person that makes money for our home. The smaller finances of my life are under my control and something that I take care of myself, like my car payment and my day to day expenses as well as school. Due to the fact that I am not working, as stated before the doctor closed his private practice I am low on funds and recently I've just made my last payment until my unemployment comes in on the loan I had taken out to pay for this year.

The manner that this has affected the members of my family, is it has made them a lot more hyperfocus on everything that happens to them and the things that happens to their bodies as well, this can be anything from a pimple to being short of breath when walking up a steep

mountain on a hike. Just recently there was a moment of scare because my friend that I had seen recently texted in our group chat that he was having chills and a little bit of a fever, this caused pandemonium and chaos throughout the group chat and even in my home, because the parents of my friend called all the parents in the group chat to let them know that it could be Covid and that we should be checked. At the time of writing this I'm going to be checked tomorrow and I hope that I do not have it not for myself but for the safety of the people in my home and the safety of the people of the world so that one day this will pass and we can all continue to our normal day-to-day lives.

The thing I find the most difficult about all of this is to find the drive to do anything, I feel it is something that most people feel and it's not really spoken about, it is something that is just brushed off, I personally have had a lot of trouble getting out of bed every day as in the beginning of this I did feel it was a cool nice break to have, and to be away from obligations of society and the things that are required of me, but as I continue to do my work I realize that there is no end or beginning to the day I feel like, because everything that is done there is no reason to do it at that time, I have definitely forgotten the days of the week, I just use the dates, all days feel the same and I truly just don't really have a reason or feel like I have a reason to continue to do the work that is required of me, but this is not something that stops me from doing it as I am still finishing it but I do not feel as though there's some sort of reward or stop to the work or for doing the work which is one of the factors and forces stopping me from being motivated to do the work.

The part of the pandemic that has really changed my outlook on life is not just the meaning of life is but what it really means and what death around me really does look like. I have been

fortunate enough to not have to deal with loss that is astronomical or big enough to have affected me in a manner where I feel saddened and I can't get out of bed but this pandemic has really showed me how quickly the world can change around you, how life changes the value of life and the meaning of it as well. Prior to this I really felt as if I was someone that waited for "the right time" and since this whole pandemic I have really begun to realize that there really is no right or wrong time to do something there just is a time that you must take when you have the opportunity to do so because you really do not know if whatever it is that you did not do that you want to do will be there for you to do tomorrow or even an hour from when you didn't do it. I cannot tell you how many countless times I have waited out of fear of losing someone or something that I did not do that thing that I wanted to do through this I learned that that is the worst thing that one can do and I have promised to myself that I will never engage in it ever again.

I think the most saddening thing that has come of this in my life and it is something that is a blessing if this is the worst thing that happens to me is that I was supposed to graduate and walk the stage this year and the 2020 commencement and that is not something that is going to happen at least in the near future or the time in which I had hoped or intended for it to happen. I do believe that I am saddened by the fact that I am not going to be able to walk the stage or is it something that I completely look forward to and I felt would give the correct ends to the journey of UCLA but it is not just me that feels this way and I really wish the best of luck for everybody in this situation and everyone that missed out on even bigger graduations in life events due to this Covid virus. I try and realize this but something that I have found helpful is to allow myself

to be okay with the fact that I am allowed to be saddened by this situation as it is a bad thing that happened to me and it is not a selfish thing to do.

The way I think that this is all connected to the course is in the readings for week six there's talks about the inquisitions of Jews Christians and Muslims, as these are the three main pillars of religion when it is looked at and arguably the three biggest, kind of reminded me of how everyone in the world right now is sort of being dealt with the same way, there is no being treated my favorite season with the virus it will attack anyone and everyone, this is how I feel that it is similar to the course.