

HIST129A Second Writing Assignment

Fourth Option

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2020 has been a rough year for people all around the world including me. As a Chinese, since the Covid-19 virus first outbreaked in China, I have been in deep worries for my friends and family back in the country, although they're not in cities that got heavily influenced like Wuhan, the sudden impact of a new unknown virus that might cause the death of hundreds of thousands of people hits people and cause panic among them. The pandemic affected many families including me.

During the pandemic, my family's finance took a huge struck. The tuition of \$15,000 per quarter for each international student was already a burden for my family when the virus outbreaked in China, all individuals are ordered to stay at home, work, or study remotely. Since my father is working as a real estate agent, the idea of working remotely to sell properties makes little sense, due to this, he could only stay at home and his salary was cut down by almost 50%. As the backbone of the family, my father already carries burdens such as household debt, daily expenses, tuition, etc. Although he was extremely stressed by this, he never expresses this kind of emotion to me, if my mother never tells me how stressed he is due to this virus, I would never have known and expected this kind of stress that is hitting my family. In the meantime, my mother, as a home teacher, also lost most of her teaching job due to this pandemic, the money she earned from home teaching was a great help to ease my father's burden since he no longer needs to worry about our daily expenses, however, this situation didn't last long either. I don't know if it is appropriate to say this but, I want to "thank" the virus, I'm not "thanking" it because how many death he caused around the world, I "thank" it because it let me know how both of my parents are working hard to support my dream of studying abroad, and how I shouldn't make them regret this decision and pay them back. I think this also applied to most of the international

students that came from a not so wealthy middle-class family, their family support them in the back just to fulfill their dream.

Covid-19 also worsen the situation of my already sickened grandparents, while they were already having a rough time walking, talking and seeing things due to several diseases, the outbreak of this pandemic terrified us since the elders are the most vulnerable target to the virus and they are easier to get exposed from the virus due to their weak immune system, if they got infected by the virus, in addition to the several diseases that they were already battling against, it would be extremely difficult for their immune system to fight against all of these diseases at the same time. Since the outbreak of the pandemic in China, many experienced doctors had been sent to the frontline to battle against the virus, which means that there is only little to none medical resources for people like my grandparents, it was frightening for us to think what the result might be if the pandemic hits them, which could be death. Due to the order from the government, people were only allowed to leave their homes for essential needs, so my family members couldn't always get to my grandparents unless they live in the hospital, which means exposure to the Covid-19 virus. Regardless all of the concerns, my grandparent's condition got better, this comforts me from the guilt that I did not spend enough time with them because of school, there is no better result than this.

My daily life also changed significantly since the huge spreading of the virus in the United States in March. First and most importantly, all classes are set to instruct remotely, which means that I no longer needed to be present at the classroom and listen to the lecture, while this might seem easier for us since we can just open our laptop and listen to professor's lecture instead of getting ourselves ready and heading to the campus, however, as a non-native speaker,

this is very challenging for me. As $\frac{3}{4}$ of the quarter has passed, I still find it hard to focus on Professor's lecture, since I listen to lectures on a laptop, my attentions always get attracted to somewhere else and often find myself not understanding what the professor is talking about even after repeatedly rolling-back the video. A lecture that was supposed to last about an hour-long, could be extended to 5-6 hours just because of my bad concentration. Also, I always forget to read the material that was supposed to be read for a certain lecture, since we study remotely, there is usually no quizzes given in class, and this always makes me feel like it is unnecessary to read the materials sometimes, and this often resulted in bad papers like my previous ones. Although bad concentration has always been a huge obstacle for me, if not because of the virus, I would at least needed to be forcing myself to focus on the lecture while in the classroom, and if there is any question regarding the lecture, I could ask the professor right away after the class end.

In addition, I also want to discuss the racial problem due to the Covid-19 virus. The race has always been a controversial topic in the United States, although I have never experienced any problems with a racist in the past few years after the outbreak of the pandemic, I had my first encounter with a racist. When I was on my way for grocery shopping, a Caucasian lady seems to discover my black Asian eyes that hid beneath the mask, and she yelled at me saying "you don't belong here, go back to your country", I was shocked, I didn't respond with any words back, I left and went to another grocery store and try to make it seems like this never happened, however, it couldn't hide the fact that I just got racial attacked. This is the first time I encounter a racist, in the four years I stayed in the states, all I met were friendly individuals, even though I never think I belong to this country, whenever I hear the word directly came at me, it still hurts

me. My friends always tell me that “racist is always racist, it is only the virus outbreak give them excuses to attack us”, and I truly agree with his point, it is not because the pandemic that makes them racist, they have always been racist. Professor Ruiz mentions that this essay will be archived in the history department website, I’m really curious what will the racial problem in the United States look like 20 years from now, I sincerely hope that it will no longer be a problem that minorities suffer, people with all skin colors could live together without any prejudice.

The virus did not only affect the United States and China, but many major events was also on hold because of this crisis, one of the most important events, is the Olympic games, as it was scheduled to occur every 4 years, this time, in the summer of 2020 at Tokyo, Japan. However, to keep social distancing and avoid any large scale gathering, the Olympic games got postponed to the year 2021. While this seems like a very reasonable move from the Japanese government, it is very frustrating for the athletes from all around the world that trained forever just to participate in this event that only occurs every 4 years, and we have to acknowledge that, the last time the Olympic game got postponed was because of World War II during the 1940s, although the casualties of the Covid-19 virus could not be compared with World War II, the trauma that this pandemic brought to the whole world is not any less.

The United States being the country that has the most infected people of Covid-19, will need a long time to recover from the loss of this pandemic, and I hope people who usually don’t pay enough attention to the virus, people who don’t wear masks when sick, people who don’t practice social distancing, will learn from this experience to prevent such significant loss again.

People who protest the “stay at home order” could learn how dangerous and contagious the virus could be.

This pandemic also reminds me of the diseases that caused by the Columbian Exchange, pandemics like Plague, Measles, Smallpox were brought to the new world, in the meantime, pandemics like American strains, Syphilis, were brought from the new world to the old world, people from both of the region has never experienced this kind of pandemics, hence, they didn't not how to react. This is just like the Covid-19 pandemic, at first, people didn't know how to react, they could only use their known knowledge on similar diseases, try to figure out a way to react to this new pandemic, people who did not pay enough attention to their personal hygiene might get infected or even die, people who did care and did prevention could get away from this virus.

When the pandemic end, wearing a mask should no longer be seen as “inappropriate” in most western countries, people should start to acknowledge the importance of a face mask instead of look at individuals who wear a face mask in a strange way, most companies, restaurants, schools should always have enough face masks and hand sanitizer stored. Countries all around the world that suffers from this pandemic should gather enough information on how to prevent another spread of the pandemic

I don't know if this paper would be read by people in the future, but if someone is reading this, please remember how many people all around the world sacrificed because of this pandemic, please also warn people who still did not care about the possibility of another

pandemic and I hope, when this is being read, there is no another huge spread of pandemic outbreak in any country in the world.