

Living through a pandemic as a young adult has been an interesting experience. I have been robbed of many milestones such as prom, high school graduation, and the concluding months of my senior year. However, I have recognized that all people have suffered due to the presence of Covid-19, and sacrificing these milestones seems insignificant compared to what others have lost. When quarantine initially began, my fear of the unknown was heightened by the constant commentary of the media, and I grew increasingly concerned as the severity of the pandemic began to rise. As teenagers, we rely heavily on the sense of structure that comes with going to school, practice, and participating in social activities each day. I felt lost without that stability.

This pandemic has forced me to grow in ways I never imagined possible. Rather than wallowing in the pain of what I had lost, I began to focus on preparing for college and obtaining a healthy lifestyle. Our generation is fortunate in the sense that we have the ability to constantly interact with those who may not be with us physically, and I found myself using technology as a resource to stay connected. Sometimes I find myself wondering what life would be like had this pandemic not occurred. I have naturally become frustrated with the circumstances placed in front of me, but I also consider that this pandemic may have been a blessing. I am undoubtedly more conscious of the things that I value, such as the relationships I share with my family and friends. I have made the choice to celebrate this new chapter of life, rather than focus on how it may differ from the past experiences of other college students. The future is not guaranteed, and each day is very different. Some days feel normal, and on other days effects of Covid-19 are heightened. We only have the present, and this pandemic has forced me to appreciate the small moments that I would have taken for granted in the past.