

PRIMARY SOURCE REFLECTION #1

Hailie

Western Civilization Since 1500 HI-102-GN

September 18, 2021

Being a teenager going through my most crucial years in a pandemic was not easy; junior and senior year were anything but normal. I specifically remember and will always remember the instance that I received a call from my school district. I was up north in Jackman, Maine at my family's camp on March 13, 2020 and was notified that we would be having a two week break from school. Unfortunately teenagers across the United States were clueless that the one phone call everyone received would have an outcome like this. Writing about this now, a few months shy of being two years later, is allowing me to reflect on how COVID-19 has really affected me in ways I never would have realized.

The beginning of COVID was truly shocking. I went from seeing my friends, family, teachers, attending school and sports daily, to not leaving my house for 2 months. The first time my mother allowed me to see any of my friends was outside at our school's turf football field and we all stood at least 6 feet away from each other with masks. Not attending school and doing online school was a drastic change for myself and many. It was hard for me to stay focused and on track with my school work, also with my mom and stepdad at work, it also became my job to help teach my little step brothers their school work and assist them when they needed help. My house has never been a quiet household, with four dogs, two boys ages eight and ten, me, my mom, and stepdad. I always cherished and appreciated this until I was forced to be in my house for months. The ending of my junior year was a big adjustment and I was hopeful that my senior year would be different.

Life began to slowly shift to normal in Maine in July of 2020, most stores and restaurants began to open back up. By the end of the summer, my highschool and others in districts around me were deciding on plans for the upcoming school year. For my senior year my highschool

decided to do hybrid learning, two days at school, three days at home. We were allowed to play sports, with masks; no spectators. School days were shortened. All school events, canceled. My senior year I focused on my school work and went to school and came home every day. I was going through it along with everyone else, I was already anxious to graduate but having COVID as an additional factor made my anxiousness ten times worse. At the end of my senior year, cases began to drop and we were allowed to at least have a regular graduation which in my eyes made up for all hardships everyone in my class had experienced within the previous year. I now attend Sacred Heart University, five hours from home in a slightly altered pandemic experience than highschool. I am very thankful that I can attend college, see my family and friends, and have a mostly normal college experience.