

Brennan

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Primary Source Reflection #1

The Bubonic Plague or other deadly viruses such as COVID-19 have introduced themselves in all environments throughout different times of history all over the world. Global pandemics or viral infections have significantly hindered the growth in human development and the rising population of humanity. At this point in time, our generation is still currently living through COVID-19. At its peak time of spread and infection within the United States all citizens were instructed to quarantine inside their residences, with all outside travel to or from the United States restricted. In these times, I had to find hobbies or pick up new skills to entertain myself with while being stuck at home. The Bubonic Plague and COVID-19 share similarities however, the Bubonic Plague was more lethal to civilization than COVID-19.

Life during the start of the pandemic was most definitely interesting due to being significantly more technologically advanced as a society than when the last deadly virus occurred. When the initial lockdown was first announced there were many thoughts rushing my head one being, "Are we all going to die?". For the first while when COVID-19 was still being researched majority of the population was scared and no one knew what was happening. I recall being on social media seeing posts about how deadly the virus was and people wearing full body suits going to the supermarket or to leave the house. Being stuck inside all day every week for an extended period, I slowly grew out of these thoughts and began learning new skills

or picking up hobbies I have never tried before. My day-to-day life during quarantine was simple. I woke up at around 7:00 AM, ate breakfast and completed my virtual classes for that day. As online school started it was a mess, after communicating with most of my friends we had all concluded no one was learning anything in online classes whether from at home distractions or not being present in a room with a teacher. Outside of school, some of my free time was spent playing video games with friends such as Fortnite or Call of Duty. My parents would always say I'm spending too much time on my Xbox however, it was the best way for me and my friends to stay connected. The longest time I went without seeing outside friends or family from my home was around 4-5 months. I hardly even went outside to get fresh air as I found myself sleeping or finding other ways to pass time. I remember when my mom was ordering food from the grocery store, she would wipe down all the grocery bags with Lysol or other forms of cleaner to ensure the virus didn't travel in if we were receiving outside items. My family took it very seriously as none of us really knew how dangerous COVID-19 was until the vaccine was introduced. Even during the summer, when the heat was thought to have killed some of the virus cells, the numbers of infected kept rising which prevented my parents from letting me leave the house to meet with friends which would have been the first time seeing them in months. Many peers I have talked to seem to say that the quarantine hurt their mental health or gave them negative feelings however, for myself it was when I grew the most as a person really realizing who I was and what I enjoyed doing.