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Capturing Quarantine: Student Pandemic Experience Journal

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Keshauna Smith

Feb 12, 2020

Why Remember?

Why is documenting this crisis important?

Documenting the crisis is important because like Mimi J. Premo said "it's giving voice to a kind of stunned weariness so many Americans are feeling." It's important because like Dawne Dewey, head of special collections and archives at the university said "...we need stories to help future generations understand this moment in history."

Why is the college-student voice important?

The college-student voice is important because we use different ways to talk about the effect that it has had on us. With the different social medias that there are now that can definitely be used as a way to record history and since the internet isn't going anywhere for a very long it'll be better for future historians to document these crazy times.

Journal Prompt #2:

What's new in your routine since the pandemic started? What have you learned that you think you will stick with once the pandemic is over?

I think something that will stick with me over once the pandemic is over is the distance that I stay away from people. I know that it'll never go away so I feel that I will always be cautious of how close I get to people. And another thing I feel like will stick with me is wearing a mask. I know for a sure that I will wear them in largely crowded places but if it's something like the library I think I wouldn't.

Keshauna Smith

How Has The Pandemic Changed You?

The pandemic has changed how I view certain things. Like recently it was my birthday and a few of my classmates were having a get together and I if it were 2019 around this time I would have went, but since the pandemic happened, I've decided to not attend a lot of gatherings when I don't know where anyone has been or who they've been around. For safety reasons I do not really like leaving my house anymore in general unless its for something important like school or to go to the store and things like that. The pandemic had changed the way I see things and I do not really know if ill be able to go back to how things were without always being cautious.

Journal Entry #4: What do you miss the most, what are you looking forward to?

Something that I miss the most is going places and not having to worry about wearing a mask. Everywhere you go now you are required to wear a mask or you aren't allowed to enter. I also miss when people had common sense. Some people will fight owners of establishments for enforcing mask wearing as if there isn't a global pandemic going on right now. I look forward to the day that everyone is vaccinated so that we can get rid of the masks and restrictions and go back to normal. I can't wait for the day that I can finally be around my classmates and not be separated by boxes and plastic separators. I can't wait until the day that I can have holidays without limiting the number of family members that can be over. And my heart goes out to the families who lost someone to the virus and were forced to limit the amount of people who could attend the funerals. This pandemic has caused me and a lot of people to miss out on certain things and I think it's truly hard to pinpoint specific things to miss and look forward to simply because a lot of it is things that you never realized were taken away when the pandemic started.

Keshauna Smith
Personal Timeline

- **Jan. 20 (First COVID case in the U.S.):** This is quite important because This was the calm before the storm. Many people including myself thought that it would go away after a while but hahahaha no.
- **Jan. 26 (Kobe & GiGi Bryant's Death):** This death shocked the world. Kobe was such an inspiration to so many people and to know that he was gone just like that didn't sit well with people at all.
- **Feb. 2 (Super Bowl LIV):** this day was so much fun. I got to hang out with family and make bets with friends as well as see my favorite dance group (The Royal Family) Perform with J.Lo! That was definitely so inspiring to see them.
- **Mar. 13 (My Birthday):** This was the Friday before everything was shut down that following Monday. I went out to eat with a bunch of my friends and after we had cake and stuff.
- **Mar. 13 (Trump declares a national emergency amid the coronavirus pandemic):** This was when I found out that the city would be going on lockdown.
- **Mar. 13 (Breonna Taylor, a Black emergency medical worker, was fatally shot)** This hurt knowing that it happened on my birthday. I still to this day wish that she gets the justice that she truly deserves.
- **Mar. 17 (Lockdown Day):** This day was quite chaotic. Because everyone cleared out the stores and loaded up on toiletries and food.
- **May 4 Murder hornets:** This was probably the most random thing that happened all year because you heard about them for maybe a month then it disappeared from media. But I'm still on the look out.
- **May 7 - Gregory McMichael and Travis McMichael were charged with killing Ahmaud Arbery in February.** Although this was a victory it was very short lived.
- **May 25 - George Floyd was killed** This was a scary thing to see. It was genuinely so hard to watch what happened to him and hear his screams. It's was heartbreaking.
- **May and beyond** - This is the month of the George Floyd Murder. This sent the world up into flames.....literally. I feel that in a way the riots should have happen but also not. I'm glad it happened because it got people to finally see that we are tired of the way that we are constantly treated in this world due to our skin color. And I feel it shouldn't have happened because it stopped a lot of peoples income and they have families.
- **June 8 I graduated high school** This was the end of an era! I was finally stepping out of childhood and into the adult world. I didn't get all the experiences as every average high school senior but my school did a mini graduation ceremony for us so we had a chance to wear our cap and gowns and finally let go of our teachers hands.
- **August 7th I lost my grandmother** This news hurt my heart a lot. As a kid my grandmother lived in Tennessee so I barely ever seen her. I'd always write her letters and call her when I missed her so now knowing that I won't be able to anymore hurts a lot.

- **Aug. 28 - Actor Chadwick Boseman passes away** It was definitely so shocking to see the news when I woke up. He was one of my favorite actors who I looked up to.
- **Sept 9: First day of college** It was so weird waking up and having to get on a computer right away to see my teachers and class mates. It was definitely a strange was of getting acquainted with everyone in my classes.
- **Nov. 7 - Biden wins the 2020 presidential election.** This is Definitely a win for the Democrats! This was my first time ever voting and seeing the person that I voted for win definitely felt great!
- **(Christmas):** was fun. It was the first time I seen a few of my family members since COVID started. So I enjoyed it a lot!
- (2021)
- **January 6: Pro-Trump rioters stormed the US Capitol** This day is important because it showed how differently people of color are treated during certain events. BLM was shot at with rubber bullets, maced, tear gassed and so much more but the Trump rioters were basically let into the capital and given a slap on the wrist.
- **January 20: President Joe Biden got inaugurated into office, and Vice President Kamala Harris made history as the first female, Black, and South-Asian vice president.)**: This is important to me because this is the first time a woman of color is in such a powerful position in the US! It'll be great to see how she represents POC!
- **March 13 my birthday):** This year was very different from last year. I stayed home and ate cake and ice cream with my family. Happy 19th to Me!
- **March 16: A man shot and killed 8 Asian women):** This is important to me because I have friends who are apart of the Asian Community and i watched how they cried because they feared for their lives just because they are Asian. That day we realized that it's POC against the world.
- **Mar 23 (The Death My Cousin):** I lost someone so close to me. He was basically a brother to me. I went from seeing him nearly everyday to never seeing him again. It was a hard thing to overcome because it fully through me for a loop. I lost motivation in everything but I'm slowly being myself back.
- **April 20 (Derek Chauvin convicted):** This is important to me because it is a sign that our voices are finally being heard. That the crooked cops will hopefully start being convicted of their wrong doings.
- **May 14 (Last day of my freshman year of college):** This is important to me because this is a huge milestone for me. This year wasn't the easiest to get through but somehow I managed. It has definitely shown me that this isn't like high school or elementary school. I made some amazing friends and was taught by some amazing teachers. I can't wait to see what the next few years bring!

Keshauna Smith, 19



By: Grace Vetter from Pinterest (<https://pin.it/4Y3R8Zm>)

Today I am Me.

The past 14 Months have shown me more about myself than I could ever imagine.

It has allowed me to experience some of the most heart escalating and heartbreaking moments of my life. It showed me that my skin is the most feared yet most powerful.

It made me realize that the world needs to change. That people being taught to have such sick mindsets need to stop.

The chain of teaching children from a young age to hate someone because of their SKIN needs to break. 'The World Needs What You Got' is something that has pushed me to show that I'm more than a stereotype and that I have so much more in this life to share with the world.



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