



**Transcription interview with Moises Camacho**

**Interviewed by Paige Barnes**

Paige Barnes: Okay, perfect. It is recording. All right, to start out—hello, my name is Paige Barnes and I will be the interviewer today. This interview is part of the Columbia College Chicago archives for the spring 2020 semester for the class “Honors Oral History: The Art of the Interview.” The project is titled, “Capturing Quarantine.” Today's date is Monday, May 4, 2020 and the time is 10:03 a.m. Central time. And I'm conducting this interview while I am located in Chicago, Illinois. So, hello. Do you mind stating your first and last name and then tell me where you're located at the moment?

Moises Camacho: Hi I'm Moses Camacho and I am in Brownsburg Indiana.

PB: And then, what is your date of birth?

MC: My year of birth is 2001.

PB: And what year and major are you?

MC: Major: filmmaking. Honestly, I forget what year I am—either 2024, 2025

PB: And when you lived on— when you were on campus, where did you live during the school year?

MC: I lived on the Southside with my uh grandmother.

PB: And what is your place of birth?

MC: Chicago, Illinois.

PB: And where were you raised?

MC: Uh, I was raised in a couple places. Uh, I think the most impactful to me and probably be here in Indianapolis and in Long Beach, California.

33

34 PB: And how did you get your name?

35

36 MC: Um, so obviously uh, like it's a biblical name as well, uh just as connections to Moses and  
37 my father also was a huge Cubs fan and his favorite player was Moisés Alou so um he named  
38 me after the Cubs player and I also—um, I had to have an “M” name because uh in my dad's  
39 family there's the initials “M-A-C” and at least one of his kids had to have “M-A-C” and I'm the  
40 one who had, “M-A-C.”

41

42 PB: And when growing up, where is the first place you remember living?

43

44 MC: I remember living in Chicago, uh—which is, um—I've tech—I've lived in Chicago about  
45 like four times now, but I—I remember uh like first living in Chicago when I was way, way  
46 younger.

47

48 PB: What did it look like?—Your home?

49

50 MC: Um, it was in like—I know my childhood home in Chicago there's like two different ones.  
51 Um, one of them, my grandma still lives there so I remember it clearly because I go there—so—  
52 I'd lived there during the school year. Um, it was a three-story like townhome, I guess, in  
53 Southside Chicago and we lived on the first story and um, I remember it was like usually dark in  
54 there for some reason. It just always felt dark in there. Um, there were three rooms. One of them  
55 was like super small. It was basically like a pantry, but you could turn it into a room. Um, I  
56 remember sharing a brother—I mean, sharing a bedroom with my older brother. Uh, we had a  
57 bunk bed in a smaller room and my parents obviously shared their room together and that was  
58 also a pretty small room, but um, it wasn't cramped or anything. It felt like—normal. It just felt  
59 dark for some reason all the time in that—in that house.

60

61 PB: What is the longest period of time you've lived in Chicago?

62 MC: I think it might have been when I was younger—uh, like the place I was describing. I think  
63 we had lived there like three or four years and then we moved to Arizona, but I don't remember  
64 that very well. Uh, I also remember a period where we live there for about three to two years. I  
65 think it was two—yeah—it was probably when I was younger then. Uh, I don't remember it  
66 super well but it's probably like three to four years.

67

68 PB: Why did your family move to Arizona?

69

70 MC: I honestly have no idea. Um, we moved a lot and I—and I never asked questions.

71

72 PB: After Arizona, where did—what state did you live in?

73

74 MC: Back— back to Chicago.

75

76 PB: And then after Chicago, where did you live?

77

78 MC: Um, back to Arizona. (laughs)

79

80 PB: I remember you telling me that you had lived in California. Can you tell me why you moved

81 to California and what age you were?

82

83 MC: Okay, um, so—I moved from Chicago to Arizona to Chicago to Arizona back to Chicago.

84 And then from Chicago, I actually moved to Florida, um, and then from Florida, we moved to

85 California because um, we weren't really—I guess my dad was in achieving what he'd like to in

86 Florida...um, he didn't have as many connections as he expected I guess—I never asked him, but

87 this is what I assumed. Um, and also one of the big reasons my dad always just tells me was that

88 it was always my mother's dream to live in California. So, um, he finally wanted to try it out and

89 I guess it didn't work out for us because we— we lived there for about three or four years. Um...

90

91 PB: Where in California did you live?

92

93 MC: Oh, I lived in Long Beach, California, Northside Long Beach, um, and I also lived in

94 Wilmington, California, which is,—I mean— it's not a suburb, because it's not at all like a

95 suburb, but I guess that's the way I describe it. It's kind of like a suburb of uh Long Beach uh,

96 because you got LA [Los Angeles] then you got Compton, Long Beach, and then I'd put

97 Wilmington in there too.

98

99 PB: What were your feelings towards moving around so much?

100

101 MC: Um, there are certain times where I hated it but um, like when I moved to California, I  
102 hated it but at the same time I got over it really fast because I didn't have many friends in  
103 Florida. Um, and I had— I was just starting the—I think my seventh grade year, so I hadn't  
104 really had many friends from sixth grade so I didn't really care, um. I, I, I really started to love  
105 California really fast. I love the environment. I loved everything about it really, but, um, when I  
106 moved from California to Brownsburg I had a lot of emotions in me, just because I— I  
107 obviously grew to fell in love with California um, and it's funny because we actually moved the  
108 night of my birthday, so it was like— I always said it was the worst birthday present ever  
109 because I—I hated it but um, I really hated also moving to Brownsburg. I have—I think it's just  
110 because of the timing. I had like a lot of bad emotions in me and a lot of bad thoughts in me. But  
111 I, again, I grew to love it. It took me longer—it took me like a year to start liking it. But, uh, I  
112 don't know, I guess confusion is the biggest emotion when moving around so much because  
113 you— I guess I don't feel the need to ask questions because I trust my parents, so I'm just  
114 confused.

115

116 PB: How old were you when you moved to Brownsburg, Indiana?

117

118 PB: I believe I was 13. Yeah, I believe it was on my thirteenth birthday.

119

120 PB: And what is the name of your high school— high schools?

121

122 MC: Yeah, uh so the first one was in downtown Long Beach. It was Renaissance High School  
123 for the Arts. Um, and I only had spent about like two months there but I— they really—those  
124 two months affected me uh because I hated it so much—the first two weeks and then I like, I felt  
125 a lot of inspiration the last month and a half. Um, and then in Brownsburg, I went to  
126 Brownsburg High School, which is just the— the high school for Brownsburg in a—yeah.

127

128 PB: And how many students were in your graduating class at, um, Brownsburg High School?

129

130 MC: Honestly, it's—not a numbers guy. I totally forgot. It—it's— it's a bigger number than  
131 you'd expect for a suburb. I think it was like the biggest class in like 10 years.

132

133 PB: What extracurriculars did you participate [in]— work included?

134

135 MC: Uh, the NHS—The National Art Honors something—I think—uh, because I did a lot of art  
136 stuff in high school and my art—the art teachers grew a liking to me so they asked me to join  
137 the club. Uh, that was senior year. That was the first time during all of schooling that I actually  
138 felt like— I guess a connection to the school because I hated all the extracurricular stuff. I did  
139 that just because I also added stuff for my college applications. I—I uh, I did a lot of volunteer  
140 work for that which we would try to gather the community through art, um, also from that,  
141 junior year I had joined Environmental Club. At first I did it for extra credit, then I just kind of  
142 started liking it so I kept going and all it was is we would um—we would gather all the  
143 recyclables after school because the— I guess we were just trying to help the janitors—would  
144 gather all the recyclables after school and put them in the recycling bin outside. I did that  
145 halfway through junior year and, uh, I did it sometimes during senior year. My schedule is a  
146 little busy because I also had work. Junior year is when I started working at uh, Walmart and I  
147 still work there to this day, but um, yeah, those are about it.

148

149 PB: How did your dream occupation change from freshman to senior year?

150

151 MC: Well, actually always had the same dream occupation since eighth grade. Since eighth  
152 grade, I had—just in general— wanted to work with the camera and it's still like that to this day.  
153 People ask me, “Why do you want to work with film?” And I'd say, “well, I also want to work  
154 photography. I don't care what it is. I'll work T.V. I don't care.” Um, since eighth grade I just  
155 wanted to work with a camera, work with a camera, work with the camera, and I uh, I kept  
156 doing it.

157

158 PB: How old were you when you first touched, held, used, a camera?

159

160 MC: Um, it's weird because I—when I was like twelve— is when I just became obsessed with  
161 the idea of it. I would just—I'd watch a lot of skate videos, a lot of music videos, and a lot of  
162 uh— I would look at—like [snaps finger]— like my favorite rappers, Rolling Stone articles and  
163 stuff, and that would give me a lot of like, the photography. And um, I was at first, I was like—I  
164 was one of those guys who was like, Okay, I need an expensive camera in order to do all this,'  
165 um, and then in— at Renaissance I joined journalism, because I wanted to be their photographer  
166 and finally the uh, the teacher who ran that class saw a lot of potential in me I guess. He saw that  
167 I wanted to do this so he was like, “okay, I'm making my photographer. I haven't even seen any  
168 of your stuff, but I'll do it.” So he gave me his camera and I think it was Holo— Halloween of  
169 like 2013 or 2014 when I first got a camera and um, it felt really refreshing because I had finally  
170 got this camera and I thought, Okay, let's see if I'm good at this. And I took way too many pic—  
171 more pictures than he wanted, and um, he liked all of them.

172

173 PB: What did your parents think of your newfound passion or just passion through high school?

174

175 MC: They always supported me through it. They always told me that I can do it and they still  
176 tell me to this day that there's nothing that's impossible.

177

178 PB: Who were your mentors growing up? (13:55)

179

180 MC: Uh, I'd say the biggest one is just my dad because um, my family has been through a lot so  
181 I obviously can relate to him because I like to ask him—nowadays, since I'm older and he's  
182 older I can ask him questions about my childhood and he'll answer them to be now. Um, then  
183 just because, you know, a lot of stuff has happened with him and me. Um, my bigger—my older  
184 brother—uh just because he's my older brother and who doesn't look up to their older brother?  
185 Um, he's taught me a lot as well and I've taught him a lot and I think that's— that's why I see  
186 him as a mentor, because I taught him a lot and the same with my dad— I've taught my dad a  
187 lot. Um, and recently uh one of my best friends just because um, it's, it's just weird to me that I  
188 could connect with a person who is so different.

189

190 PB: Um-hm. And what were your expectations when you graduated from high school?

191

192 MC: I expected it to be a lot crappier.

193

194 PB: How so?

195

196 MC: —I, I guess it's just because I didn't expect my parents to support me as much as they are.  
197 Um, my dad helps me as much as he can and even when I tell him, “No you buy yourself this.  
198 You don't need to buy me this,” he'll still help me out with something either with my textbooks  
199 or a concert ticket or gas money. Um, but I guess it's also because I haven't uh—I'm not doing it  
200 the dumbest way, I guess, like I'm not taking out \$50,000 worth of loans yet but um yeah, it's  
201 just not as crappy as that expected to be.

202

203 PB: And how many siblings do you have?

204

205 MC: I have five brothers and one sister. Um, one is older than me. The rest are all younger.

206

207 PB: Right. What colleges did you visit during your college search?

208

209 MC: (Laughs) The only one I visited was Columbia College.  
210  
211 PB: (Laughs)  
212  
213 MC: My dream school was always uh School of Art—the Art Institute in Chicago, but um, I  
214 didn't visit any because I—I thought I wasn't going to go to college—uh  
215  
216 PB: —interesting. And why is that?  
217  
218 MC: I had a lot of— coming out of high school—I, I wanted to just go into business because I  
219 thought that was an easy route and I was already good at business because [an] extracurricular  
220 activity—I forgot about actually—I did DECA [Distributive Education Clubs of America]—  
221 which is uh, a like a business program where you compete with other high school students uh, in  
222 like role playing business opportunities and stuff like that. Uh, it's like I—I was specialized  
223 marketing and I did pretty well in it so I thought that I was just gonna—I thought that I was  
224 either going to keep working and try to work my way up a company or something or I was  
225 planning on maybe going to Ivy Tech and taking some business courses and getting my way  
226 through there. But, um, my mind changed really, really fast.  
227  
228 PB: When did you change your mind about going to Columbia for film, rather than going to  
229 college for business.  
230  
231 MC: I changed my mind like— only like two months before the semester began. I was  
232 applied—I, I had applied to Ball State for their um, telecommunications program um and I  
233 had— I'd been accepted, but I had don none of my financial aid, I had done nothing um and I—I  
234 was finally I was at work and I was about my dad had just send money to my bank account so I  
235 could send um my—my I guess confirmatio I guess you could call it to actually attend Ball State  
236 and I was just sitting there thinking like, I don't think this is at all what I wanted to do and I told  
237 my dad and he said, “Okay, do whatever you want.” And the only other school I had in my mind  
238 was Columbia, so I applied to Columbia that same day. A week later I accepted the offer of  
239 coming here.  
240  
241 PB: Did you decide on being a filmmaking major immediately when you came into Columbia or  
242 did you decide on something else?  
243  
244 MC: Yeah, it was immediate. I thought to myself, if I was gonna go to school for anything—If  
245 I'm going to art school why not just go for filmmaking? What I wanted to do.



246

247 PB: What did you do leading up to the summer before college?

248

249 MC: Uh, me and my best friends all kept saying to ourselves that this is kind of like our last  
250 summer as children—that's what we would keep saying over and over again. I had gotten in a  
251 camera from school because I begged uh—I begged one of our liking news teachers to let me  
252 have a camera and he let me keep one—like an old mini DV camera and I took that around  
253 everywhere I went and I uh, filmed as much as possible. So I—me and my friends, we would go  
254 out to parks, we would go out to trails, we would—half of the time, not even be in our own  
255 house that night. We would stay over at someone's house—we would see as many movies  
256 together as possible. We would do as much as possible together. We all worked at Walmart so  
257 that was even better. Um, I worked as much as possible um. We were just trying to be outside of  
258 our own houses as much as possible um and I filmed everything and I made it—at first, I was  
259 just filming, just to do it, but then I—I—I interviewed one of my friends and I thought, Wow,  
260 this actually feels really cool and then a week later I was like, Hey, maybe I should interview all  
261 of my friends with this narrative of this is our last summer children. And so I did that with all of  
262 my friends and I filmed everything and then I kind of made it into like this mini—not mini—it's  
263 a long like two and a half hour documentary of my summer with my best friends and I just  
264 showed it to them and they all liked it. And I—I still haven't like, shown anybody else it, but I  
265 don't know if anyone else will ever see it.

266

267 PB: What year did you start Columbia?

268

269 MC: I started in 2019.

270

271 PB: What were you most excited for um, about starting college?

272

273 MC: Independence. Uh, as a kid, my dad always told me that out of all my brothers, I'm the  
274 most independent out of all of them. I was always the one who wanted to do my own thing—not  
275 asked for help. And I'd always—I'd always told my parents that after high school I was moving  
276 out so yeah, I was excited for independence.

277

278 PB: What on-campus or off-campus extracurriculars were you a part of—or are you a part of?

279

280 MC: I'm not a part of anything at Columbia, just because I — never really nothing interests me  
281 very much but um during Columbia, something I started doing with one of my friends from  
282 Brownsburg who also attended Columbia, was we started a podcast. Um, so that's like the only  
283 thing I'm doing outside of school.

284

285 PB: What is the podcast name and what is it about?

286

287 MC: Uh, it's titled "Enter Sandman" and we talk about Adam Sandler and his movies because  
288 after we watched "Uncut Gems," we both realized that we have an enormous amount of respect  
289 for Adam Sandler. Um, so we watch his movies and every week we talk about the movie—plus,  
290 like what he was going through at that time of his life.

291

292 PB: What was the last thing you remember doing on campus?

293

294 MC: I remember running out of the building as soon as class was over, because I thought, Okay,  
295 I gotta go home and pack.

296

297 PB: When did you first become aware of the coronavirus?

298

299 MC: Um, it was on a Thursday, I believe— like the last Thursday day of classes. Uh, we were  
300 all uh discussing a film that we had just watched in class and it was—it was weird that week  
301 because that week it was like kind of gloomy and everyone was saying class will probably be  
302 cancel, class probably be cancelled, and that professor had just said uh in the beginning of the  
303 class—he had said that um he expects an email soon and at the end of class— like five minutes  
304 before class was over, uh, some kids—I see some kids in front of me like talking like— and  
305 looking, pointing at their phone, pointing at their phone and uh, one of the—I was like, what  
306 happen—[they] just finally said like, "Yeah classes are cancelled for the next like three weeks.  
307 We're going online."

308

309 PB: What were your initial thoughts to that?

310

311 MC: I was actually really happy because um my dad was kind of— he was keeping me up a lot  
312 and I knew that it definitely wouldn't have been smart—even if classes weren't cancelled—I  
313 probably would have still tried to like find a way to get out of here...get out of Chicago—just  
314 because I thought that it was probably a terrible place to be during a virus just because I uh  
315 relied so heavily on public transportation and it's a huge city with a lot of people in it.

316

317 PB: What did other family members think about the announcement of campus closing?

318

319 MC: Well my dad immediately thought, Okay, come home right now tonight, but uh, I had a— I  
320 still had stuff to do. I also had already offered my friend a ride back to Brownsburg um because  
321 we both were expecting for classes to be canceled so I had to wait for him because his classes—  
322 he had classes on that Friday, um which I didn't, and um, so my dad really wanted me to come  
323 home as fast as possible. My—my older brother was pretty happy because he said that we'd—  
324 I'd be able to be home early for Christmas—not Christmas break for summer break, and spring  
325 break. Um, and my grandmother and my family that I live with down there were—they were  
326 kind of worried, just because they thought that hopefully I hadn't um came in contact with the  
327 virus and bringing it home to them.

328

329 PB: Where were you when you learned Columbia was transitioning to E-learning?

330

331 MC: I don't remember honestly (laughs). I think I was already here in Indiana so I must have  
332 been home doing something.

333

334 PB: How did the announcement of campus closure impact your living situation?

335

336 MC: Um, well, thankfully, I'm blessed enough that I had— in Chicago—I had a car. I brought  
337 my car from Brownsburg. So it affected—I—I obviously could come back home to Brownsburg  
338 very quickly so that— it affected me in that way. I had to come to Brownsburg but um honestly,  
339 it felt no different just because whenever I'm on break or on a weekend where I feel like I want  
340 to come back home, I could come back home whenever I want.

341

342 PB: How long did it take you to move out from your grandma's in Chicago to Brownsburg—the  
343 home in Brownsburg?

344

345 MC: Yeah, it took me two days. Uh, the Thursday was announced, I had packed up a little bit,  
346 but I knew my friend uh wanted to come with me because I had, you know, invited him uh and  
347 then we also —we took the risk— earlier on that semester, there was a film festival going on at  
348 the Music Box [Theatre] in Chicago—the 70 millimeter festival and we had bought the season  
349 pass so we were trying to go to as many—take as many movies as possible and that weekend  
350 were— they were showing the one movie that we both really, really wanted to see and this—I  
351 believe, on Friday or Thursday was the same thing. It was like the one movie we both really,  
352 really wanted to see. So we're like, you know what, let's take the risk. And so (laughs) we um,  
353 we had went—I—I believe was on Thursday we had went to one showing and they told us, “Oh,  
354 you know, because of the whole corona thing we're limiting seats so you can't come in.” And we  
355 were both really really mad because that's the movie we wanted to see. So we went to go and get  
356 a pizza and I was like, Hey, let's go try again. Let's just do it. So we went and tried again and the  
357 guy was like, “Oh you're season pass holders. Yeah, we have seats for you.” So we were—we  
358 were both in kind of like a gloomy mood because of the whole corona thing, but we're also in a  
359 very happy mood because of that. And then on Saturday we both went to see the movie we  
360 really, really wanted to see. Um, and it felt different—very different because the theater was not  
361 as packed as we were expecting it to be because they had limited seating, but, um, yeah.

362

363 PB: Would you say that was like the tip of the iceberg for um the events that were— that were  
364 to come—that would be cancelled?— or adjusted?

365

366 MC: Yeah, yeah. Um, for me, yeah, I'd say so just because um while it felt limited and it also  
367 really didn't. I was like, Oh, this theater is still packed for a 750 seat theater. Um, yeah, that was  
368 a tip of the iceberg for it just because a lot— a lot more to come.

369

370 PB: Did your friend that you drove back to Brownsburg also have items to bring back?

371

372 MC: Yeah. He, um—so I didn't, I didn't bring back very much. I just brought back like half—I'd  
373 say a little more than half of my wardrobe. I only had like a duffel bag and a—one big suitcase  
374 um, and he brought back like— at first he was just going to bring back his clothes in the  
375 essentials, but then he thought, I'm probably not going to come back so why not take like  
376 everything? So, um, my car was packed like to the roof— it was packed. It was very—like there  
377 was no more space at all.

378

379 PB: What did you do during spring break, which was the two weeks after— I guess it was the  
380 week after those two week hiatus?

381

382 MC: Um, so I um, at that point I was already working so I was just working, staying at home...  
383 And uh, oh, whoa, whoa, hold on—no—at that point I was sick I think. Uh I think I was sick at  
384 that point so I wasn't doing anything. I was at home, laying in bed. Uh yeah, I think that's the  
385 week I was sick actually.

386

387 PB: What type of sickness did you have?

388

389 MC: I—I (laughs) don't know what it was. Um, my dad had his work. He's in the—he's an  
390 essential worker. He's an auto body technician, but that week they said, "Hey everybody stay  
391 home because two of our workers are sick. We don't know what with, but they're sick." So he  
392 stood home, and both me and my dad had the same symptoms. We—we think it's a flu. We  
393 thought, possibly the coronavirus—we had no idea, um. I had never had the flu before so it  
394 could have been the flu, because I had never felt that way ever before. We have no idea what it  
395 was. It felt like a lot of things mixed together.

396

397 PB: You had talked about working at Walmart. How is your job there affected by the  
398 coronavirus?

399

400 MC: Um, so starting— since last week, we've had to wear facemasks. Um, I am a car pusher so  
401 I work outside so I already wear gloves, but um they obviously urged everyone to wear gloves.  
402 We used to be a twenty-four hour Walmart, we now close at eight thirty. Um, every time we  
403 clock into work we have to check-in. Um they take our temperature, they give us a mask, they  
404 ask— they have like a questionnaire for us— asks, like uh, if we've had any symptoms, if we've  
405 been out of the state, if we know anybody with symptoms, stuff like that. Um, it— it's felt— it's  
406 just felt different like the customers are in a different mood, I guess. Um, there's also like gates  
407 up at the front entrance, just in case we fulfill the capacity and people need to stand in line. Uh,  
408 yeah, just felt a little bit more empty—it's been a little, a little easier, but at the same time I'm  
409 also seeing like how dumb people are being there during this virus. There's people who wear  
410 masks to the store, but they don't wear gloves. Um, there's people bringing their kids out— all  
411 their kids to the store. There's people who are bringing their grandmother to the store. Um,  
412 there's a lot of things that I'm noticing because of the customers.

413

414 PB: How does it feel being an essential worker during this time?

415

416 MC: I—I feel very lucky because I do have a paycheck to help myself and my family, um, it just  
417 feels really different because I feel like I'm making mistakes at work um, like maybe I shouldn't  
418 be this nice to the customers or um, there are certain points when I go in to grab a water, grab a  
419 Red Bull or something, and I'm standing really close to someone and then there have been times  
420 where people look back at me and give me dirty looks and like, "I'm so—I'm so sorry—I'm so  
421 sorry." It's hard to get used to it—you know—the whole six-feet thing. It feels—I feel lucky—  
422 [but] at the same time sometimes I'm like thinking maybe I should just stay home.

423

424 PB: How has your family adjusted to the coronavirus?

425

426 MC: Um, well, the past month we have all been staying home—like only going out for groceries  
427 and like gas and whoever's working um, because as well as most of my friends working  
428 there...um, my older brother works there and my younger brother who just turned sixteen also  
429 works at Walmart. So four of us in the house all have jobs um, but we've all been staying home  
430 and the only thing that's really different within our household is the food we eat. We don't—  
431 sometimes we eat like super plane stuff, sometimes we'll have to eat—like I've never ever once  
432 have ever ate fru—fruit from my can at home but like I've been doing that a lot recently. Um,  
433 but recently, my dad has been allowing some of me and my siblings to um, like hang out with  
434 friends, I guess. Uh, my first time hanging out with my friends in a while was Saturday, just  
435 because it was a really, really, really nice day. None of us have come in contact with the virus  
436 that we know of. Um, we all—uh, two of those people— three of those people are essential  
437 workers. Two of them work at the same Walmart that I do so if they came in contact with  
438 anyone so if I—um, we kind of just thought about and said to ourselves, I don't—I don't think  
439 any of us are bad right now, so why not, and we we didn't go anywhere. We went outside to a  
440 trail for a really long time, um. My dad has just started allowing some of my siblings to uh, like  
441 see their friends, but he's—he's like telling them, "Don't go—you know—to, to eat, don't go to  
442 Walmart. Stay outside. Don't stay in like these people's homes," and stuff like that.

443

444 PB: How do the safety precautions um, differ from where you are now to how they are in  
445 Chicago?

446

447 MC: I—I honestly haven't been keeping up to date with um, like the lockdown rules, but I'm  
448 guessing that Chicago's are a little bit more strict than mine. Currently, Indiana's putting in  
449 place, like a three month program—like four stage program of coming out of the lockdown, but  
450 I believe Illinois is as well so it might not differ too much. Um, but just recently, I think my  
451 county is starting to allow more nonessential businesses to open. Um, I don't think it's strict  
452 enough that— that's—like the—yeah—

453

454 PB: What would you hope your state— your even town— would do to make it stricter?

455

456 MC: I would hope that we honestly—a thing that I keep saying to myself is, Why are all these  
457 like food places open? I understand that, like they um—some people don't have time to go to the  
458 grocery store, but I don't know. I don't see how a KFC is an essential, but the BMV isn't. I—I  
459 think that there's just some things that shouldn't be considered essential that are. And there's a lot  
460 of ways to bypass them. I—I was driving the other day and I saw that— that a vapes store was  
461 open and I was wondering, Why is that open? Then, I noticed a huge sign in the front that said,  
462 “We sell masks.” So I think there's a lot of laws that are easy to get around and there's a lot of  
463 places that probably shouldn't be open.

464

465 PB: How many of your family members are at risk of the coronavirus being fatal if they  
466 contracted it?

467

468 MC: Um, well, a lot of my siblings are asthmatic. My mother had has some bad asthma. She's  
469 a—she's not like old—so um, there's that, but she had some bad asthma. A lot of my siblings  
470 have asthma, but they're not showing any symptoms—are not going out either, um. My dad is  
471 forty-five. He doesn't have any health issues, uh. He's a healthy man, so luckily no—none of my  
472 family have any serious risks.

473

474 PB: What does a typical day look like for you when you're in quarantine with your family?

475

476 MC: Oh, well it's usually—I think everyone's sleep schedules messed up, but I try to wake up  
477 by like ten or eleven. This past week has been failing and I wake up at like twelve, but um, I try  
478 to wake up. I try to eat. I clean around the house because all my siblings don't wake up till like  
479 two because everyone sleep—everyone goes to sleep so late. I try to clean up the house. I— at  
480 that point, if the house is still, quiet, I try to do homework, but it's impossible for me to do  
481 homework with a bunch of stuff going on. Um, I'd say from there, I try to do some homework  
482 once my siblings wake up. I'll play PlayStation or something and then at four, I go to work—  
483 from four to nine I work— and then I come back home, take my—uh, I—I recently I've been  
484 exercising a lot so I do—I try to do like a bunch of push ups and then I take my shower and then  
485 I either watch movies until like 5 a.m. or I play PlayStation with my friends until like 5 a.m.

486

487 PB: How has your relationship with your parents changed now that you're there 24/7?

488

489 MC: Um, well, I only live with my dad because my— my parents separated. Um, I don't come  
490 in contact with my mom as much uh, so there's that. And my— with my dad I think I've just  
491 grown to understand him a lot more. Um, it's hard being home after being away for so long. It  
492 feels really different and I still have to adjust, um and—my dad has started to point that out—  
493 that I act certain ways that I probably shouldn't act because I forget that I'm here with my six  
494 siblings. Um—but yeah, I've just grown to understand my father a lot.

495

496 PB: Does your mom also live in Brownsburg now or is she somewhere else?

497

498 MC: Oh, she's somewhere else, but it's— it's very, very, very close it's still in Indianapolis.

499

500 PB: Let's circle back to you said online learning— schooling—And so what issues have you had

501 with E-learning. What do you like—

502

503 MC: I—

504

505 PB: —What do you not like?

506

507 MC: Uh, I—I really, really am not good at online learning, um. I just think that there's a lot of—

508 I have one professor who has not changed the course whatsoever, um. And I was already

509 struggling in that class because I personally didn't like it so I'm struggling even more now—

510 that's the only class that I've chosen the pass/fail on—the rest I've kept the grading because I—

511 like in this class in particular, Oral History, I'm doing perfectly fine in it. She—our professor,

512 Dr. McCarthy, she graciously lowered the amount of work we have to do, um. And all the work

513 that we did have to do was very easy. Um, I'd—it's just really hard for me because it's—I was

514 already struggling to concentrate in class so now, outside of class, I have no motivation at all to

515 do it just because I see my laptop. I could just close it anytime I want.

516

517 PB: How do you maintain a work life balance or how have you tried to?

518

519 MC: You mean with like uh, work and school work?

520

521 PB: Yeah, or all three with—you know—your home life and your essential work and your

522 school work.

523



524 MC: Well, I guess I'm kind of just have days where I naturally do my work like um, today  
525 would be one because I have a class— a Zoom class at 2 p.m. um. Today, I would naturally just  
526 like do work for that class if I need to, but uh it's usually just on the weekends, where I do  
527 homework because I work Monday through Friday and I can't get quiet in the house—Monday  
528 through Friday— but Saturday through Sunday I could—somehow it's weird, I can get quietness  
529 on the weekend um. It's—it's,—I mean it's easy when it comes to work I could balance that out  
530 easily, but it's just the homework. I um— I have—it's not that I don't have time. It's that I don't  
531 have quiet time.

532

533 PB: What classes have been the hardest to transfer online in your opinion?

534

535 MC: Well, all of my classes are pretty easily transferable. I'd say the one class is the one class  
536 I'm struggling on. It's uh, it's um, like uh, I don't even remember what class—that's how much I  
537 hate it. Um, it's like a screenplay class kind of—uh, like an analysis class of screenplays and  
538 stuff, but, uh, I think it's because that class was my only—really class— that really, really relied  
539 heavily on lectures um, because with oral history it's as easy as if you miss a day of class, you  
540 could just read the chapter and you probably will get the basic information of what we learned  
541 that day. Um, and my, like film analysis classes are easy because all I need to do is watch a  
542 movie, then talk about it. Um, As well as my professor has recorded lectures so, listen to ten  
543 minutes of lecture before the movie, watch the movie, listen to ten minutes after the movie— of  
544 the lecture of and write down a discussion. It's only that it's only that class. I think just because  
545 of how many assignments we had, and my professor chose not to lower the amount of  
546 assignments that we have right now.

547

548 PB: What resources did you rely on at Columbia the most?

549

550 MC: I relied on the library a lot. Um, I got a lot of movies from my—from the library um, but  
551 now I have to rent them. Um, I also from time to time, I would uh take copies of stuff at the  
552 library. Yeah, that's only—the only real big resource that I relied on.

553

554 PB: What ways has the college supported you in this transition to online learning.

555

556 MC: Well, they offered the pass/fail option um and I only use that for one of my five courses.  
557 Um, I—I—not the college itself, but my professors at the college have been very  
558 communicative uh these past weeks um, even more than usual which is funny to me. Um, but  
559 they—I think most of my professors have been very, very understanding—that's—that's like the  
560 biggest amount of support that I've gotten from the college.

561

562 PB: What are some positives about online learning and what are some negatives about online  
563 learning? You've touched briefly upon the negatives but anything positive that you have found?

564

565 MC: Positives, I think it's—for the people who can work anywhere that's great for them. They  
566 can choose their own environment. They can work when they want, where they want. Um, I  
567 think that's another big positive is timing uh. You can wake up late in the morning and do your  
568 homework. You don't have to wake up early for class or lecture. If you missed a lecture you can  
569 listen back to it um. The Zoom calls are very helpful. I uh only have like two classes that  
570 actually attend because the other one, we're just kind of—I'd rather not attend um—I mean,  
571 yeah, positives—it's just I guess location timing and stuff like that. Negatives, I— it's really hard  
572 for some people to concentrate. I can't concentrate at my own home. I can't. It's impossible for  
573 me unless there's quiet and with six other people usually here with me it's really hard. Um, yeah,  
574 it's hard.

575

576 PB: What concerns do you have about classes resuming online if they do in the fall?

577

578 MC: Uh, well it'd just be hard to even like, want to start school for me. Uh, I don't know if I'd  
579 even want to come back if the classes were online personally.

580

581 PB: What would you do instead?

582

583 MC: I'd either continue working and take the semester off or maybe I would um—maybe I  
584 transferred Ivy Tech uh, just so I can get some more of my core classes out of the way.

585

586 PB: How does the end of the year celebration, Manifest, now that it's virtual, affect how you will  
587 be able to participate in it?

588

589 MC: (Laughs) Oh, well um, to be completely honest with you, I never uh was excited—were  
590 excited for Manifest... so there's that—probably wouldn't have attended anyways but um, it's  
591 interesting to me because just me and my friend the other day, we're talking about—we saw the  
592 email where people are asking for Tik Toks for Manifest and I don't know—it just makes me  
593 feel weird about the festival because I had already—I'd already wasn't interested and it's  
594 probably sounds super pessimistic to say, but I'm now have even less interest on it uh, just  
595 because of all this.

596

597 PB: Yeah. What do you miss most about being on campus?

598

599 MC: I missed the train rides. I am a—I love—I'm a sucker for public transportation. I love—I  
600 love the train. I love the bus. I love walking from train to train. I love it. And I miss that so  
601 much.

602

603 PB: What has kept you motivated during your time at home during all this?

604

605 MC: Do you mean for class or just like the future?

606

607 PB: The—the future.

608

609 MC: What has kept me motivated—I guess—just wanting to go back out into the world. Um, it's  
610 going to happen eventually. Eventually, we're going have to go back and to our regular routine.  
611 Um, that's—that's— what keeps you motivated a lot as well as wanting to create. Recently, I've  
612 had like a creative splurge in my head and I haven't had that in a while, so that's—that's keeping  
613 me motivated as well.

614

615 PB: When you keep up with the coronavirus updates, what media or news outlets do you turn  
616 to?

617

618 MC: Whatever my dad usually turns to uh, so that's usually uh, CNN. Um, my dad actually  
619 watches like everything, so like CNN, Fox—it depends what he wants to watch that day um. I  
620 haven't been keeping up with the virus stuff recently just because it's really easy to see on social  
621 media. It's easy to go on your Twitter trending and find out what's new today. Um, I've used  
622 Apple News a lot just because it always pops up in the morning usually um, and whatever  
623 resources those have because it has all the publications. Um, I think social media is probably the  
624 biggest one. That's where I learned mostly everything.

625

626 PB: Who do you talk to about any fears you have regarding the coronavirus?

627

628 MC: Um, I talk to my dad about it a lot because we have pretty similar opinions on the—the  
629 virus and how we're going to recover and how we should start recovering. Uh also, one my—  
630 just my friends like my best friends because most of them share the same opinions as me on the  
631 virus—and their fears as well.

632

633 PB: Let's see—and looking back at all of this, what do you think Colombia should have done  
634 differently?

635

636 MC: I was lucky enough to live off of campus so uh, the whole housing stuff wasn't complicated  
637 for me, but uh from talking to people and interviewing people it looks like the—that Columbia  
638 should have handled—the housing, a little bit differently. Um, just because it seemed like it  
639 was— it happened kind of in a rush, as well as like the RA stuff. I heard that the RAs might not  
640 have been treated very well. They might have been doing stuff that made them uncomfortable.  
641 Um, so that's something. Um, right now, I think that the whole grading thing could have been  
642 handled a little better. Um, I chose pass/fail for a class, but I could still get failed—doesn't mean  
643 I'm going to get passed um so that'll be a waste of time and money. Um, I think that Columbia  
644 should've—should—not should've—should still possibly give us a partial refund on our tuition.  
645 Um, I don't think they're considering that at this point. Yeah—those are the big—big things that  
646 I could think of—oh, actually, I think that if they would have done it, maybe two days ahead it  
647 probably would have made things a little bit better as well for the students.

648

649 PB: How has the coronavirus affected your view of what hope is?

650

651 MC: Um. Well, for me, it's kind of—I'm—I'm pessimistic on a lot of things sometimes so I  
652 think with my family and my friends I'm hopeful, but when I see what people are still doing, like  
653 people still act like it's normal outside, it makes me lose a lot of hope. Um, for example, the  
654 spring breakers in Florida—that really, really disappointed me and it showed me how typical  
655 Americans are. Um, so I—I think the country as a whole makes me lose a little hope, but the  
656 way that my fam—my friends and my family are starting to deal with it makes me super  
657 hopeful.

658

659 PB: What aspects of life did you take for granted before the virus?

660

661 MC: Um. Quiet. Quiet. I took quiet for granted because I need it now and I can get it and I had a  
662 lot of quiet um back in Chicago and I didn't take it for granted—I mean, I took it for granted.

663

664 PB: How do you feel about the future moving forward with work, with school, with your  
665 personal life?

666

667 MC: I think a lot is going to change for me uh when it comes to school. I'm starting to rethink  
668 my schooling a little bit. I also want to be in the film industry so the film industry is being hit  
669 hard right now um. No one knows what— what's going to happen. There's so many movies  
670 being delayed. There's so many productions being delayed. People are worrying now about  
671 how— if sets will be different now so if— if I do continue to do this my job will eventually be  
672 affected. Thank God I have Walmart because they still have a job so hopefully that won't be  
673 affected anytime soon. I think it's just my schooling that will be affected the most because I am  
674 starting to question now if I will want to go back to Colombia if it's going to switch to online.

675

676 PB: What else would you like to add that I didn't ask you?

677

678 MC: I don't—I don't—I don't—I don't think there's anything really.

679

680 PB: Thank you.