



1 Clare Cinelli: Alright, so this is the Oral History Capturing Student Life During  
2 Quarantine project. My name is Clare Cinelli, it is May 4<sup>th</sup>, Monday at 11:39.  
3  
4 Clare Cinelli: And what is your name?  
5  
6 Jayla Sims: My name is Jay'La Sims and it is May 4<sup>th</sup>.  
7  
8 Clare Cinelli: And what is your year of birth?  
9  
10 Jayla Sims: 2000.  
11  
12 Clare Cinelli: And your location?  
13  
14 Jayla Sims: I'm in Dallas, Texas.  
15  
16 Clare Cinelli: And I am in Chicago, Illinois. And what is your major?  
17  
18 Jayla Sims: Comedy writing and performance.  
19  
20 Clare Cinelli: And your year of graduation?  
21  
22 Jayla Sims: 2023.  
23  
24 Clare Cinelli: And then your place of birth?  
25  
26 Jayla Sims: Henderson, Texas.  
27  
28 Clare Cinelli: And were you also raised there?  
29  
30 Jayla Sims: Yes, for four years.  
31  
32 Clare Cinelli: And your mother's year of birth and place of birth?  
33  
34 Jayla Sims: 1969 and she was born in Pampanga, Philippines.  
35  
36 Clare Cinelli: And then father's year of birth and place of birth?  
37  
38 Jayla Sims: 1979 he was born and Henderson Texas as well.  
39  
40 Clare Cinelli: All right, and to start the questions, what is your earliest memory?  
41  
42 Jayla Sims: Uh, my earliest memory is when I fell into a ditch, I was like riding a four  
43 wheeler, and I fell into a ditch and I like skinned my knee. I think that was my first  
44 memory.

45  
46 Clare Cinelli: And what do you remember growing up—What do you remember most  
47 about growing up in Texas?  
48  
49 Jayla Sims: Um Well, I guess, all of the apartment complexes that I've lived at  
50 because I've lived on the same street for like a very long time. So I guess just this one  
51 street.  
52  
53 Clare Cinelli: And what's your favorite activity as a child?  
54  
55 Jayla Sims: Playing with dolls in my room. I liked making them talk to each other, so.  
56  
57 Clare Cinelli: What was your favorite part of high school?  
58  
59 Jayla Sims: That's hard. Um, I would say, my friends, my friends were the best part of  
60 it.  
61  
62 Clare Cinelli: And what was the most challenging part?  
63  
64 Jayla Sims: A lot of judgment from everyone, including the teachers. I think that's  
65 really challenging.  
66  
67 Clare Cinelli: Tell me about your favorite high school teacher.  
68  
69 Jayla Sims: It's hard, I hated high school so much. Wow. I—I was not expecting this.  
70 I'm gonna go with Christopher Chambers, because I had in my senior year and he  
71 taught math and he passed me with the 90 even though I didn't know anything in the  
72 class. So he was very nice for that.  
73  
74 Clare Cinelli: So what were your expectations and or ambitions when you graduated  
75 high school?  
76  
77 Jayla Sims: I knew that I was going to go to Columbia. I knew that I wanted to  
78 somehow be in comedy in some shape or form. I wasn't sure if it was writing or stand  
79 up, or just acting and comedy, but I just knew that that was the route that I was going  
80 to take.  
81  
82 Clare Cinelli: And why did you decide to choose Columbia College over any other  
83 college?  
84  
85 Jayla Sims: I got really good scholarships, and when I toured the school I really liked  
86 it. Like I liked everything that I saw.  
87  
88 Clare Cinelli: And what was it like moving from Texas to Chicago when you first

89 started college?  
90  
91 Jayla Sims: It was very new, because I obviously never been anywhere else I've  
92 grown up in the same place since I was like four. So it was just very, very new, but  
93 also really refreshing, in a way, it felt like I got like a new page in my book kind of.  
94  
95 Clare Cinelli: And what was challenging and what is still challenging about living in a  
96 dorm in a big city?  
97  
98 Jayla Sims: Um, sound. I feel like there's just a lot of sounds going on constantly and I,  
99 like live next to a train. So that was a little bit challenging but yeah.  
100  
101 Clare Cinelli: What was your favorite part about going to school in Chicago?  
102  
103 Jayla Sims: All the new people that I got to meet from like so many different places, I  
104 think was one of my favorite parts.  
105  
106 Clare Cinelli: So when did you first become aware of the coronavirus?  
107  
108 Jayla Sims: I got a text from my— well I read it on the internet, first and I was like, oh,  
109 interesting. And this was in like the end of January, and then I got a text from my  
110 mom that was like there's one case of the coronavirus in Chicago. Bring hand sanitizer  
111 on the train. Please be safe and all this. And then I was like okay, love her.  
112  
113 Clare Cinelli: And what did you fear the most when learning about the dangers of the  
114 virus?  
115  
116 Jayla Sims: What I feared the most was just the effect of everyone else around me.  
117 Like I know that like I could get the virus, but it might not be that bad, but then  
118 people with underlying conditions and the people that live in dorms that have like a  
119 lot of people in it or people that eat at a cafeteria that have a lot of people in it and I'm  
120 like, oh, that's gross, but yeah.  
121  
122 Clare Cinelli: And where were you when you first found out that Columbia was  
123 transitioning to remote learning?  
124  
125 Jayla Sims: I was in my dorm. And—yes, I was in my dorm and it was five minutes  
126 before I was about to go to one of my classes. It's like, oh, and then that whole entire  
127 class period, we just talked about classes going online. So, yeah.  
128  
129 Clare Cinelli: How did your peers feel about transitioning to remote learning?  
130  
131 Jayla Sims: Hated it, hated it, didn't understand the concept of it. We were just like,  
132 how are we gonna improv through the computer and all this stuff and it was just like,

133 It—there were a lot of concerns. Like everyone was really concerned I think, about it.  
134  
135 Clare Cinelli: How did your spring break plans change?  
136  
137 Jayla Sims: I never really even had spring break plans. So, I mean, I guess they  
138 changed in the way that I wasn't in Chicago anymore, but not that much.  
139  
140 Clare Cinelli: How did the virus and the college closing impact your living situation?  
141  
142 Jayla Sims: So I live in a dorm, so I had to move out. Um, so I wasn't living with my  
143 old roommates, or in my own room anymore. So now I live with my mom and my  
144 sister.  
145  
146 Clare Cinelli: Describe the process of moving out and having to move out fairly  
147 quickly after learning about the virus.  
148  
149 Jayla Sims: Oh my god. So it was just a lot of planning, like where are we going to  
150 put our stuff, you know, how are we going to do this, like in the safest way possible.  
151 And we had a time limit of two hours to move out so we had to like, schedule a time  
152 with our with our housing and we did that, but we showed up early and we even went  
153 like over the time because I don't think anyone can pack in like two hours, but we  
154 couldn't, so.  
155  
156 Clare Cinelli: How did you decide what things you wanted to bring back to Texas?  
157  
158 Jayla Sims: Hm?  
159  
160 Clare Cinelli: How did you decide what things you wanted to bring back?  
161  
162 Jayla Sims: Oh yeah, that was hard as well. I was just like, do I, I was like, can I see  
163 this next year? Like, that's what I kept asking myself, like can I, not next year, but like  
164 next semester. I'm like, can I wait to see this item until next semester? Okay, put it in  
165 the box.  
166  
167 Clare Cinelli: Describe your current living situation.  
168  
169 Jayla Sims: Um, I live in an apartment with my mom and my sister. My mom has her  
170 own room and I share a room with my sister, and that's a little bit, uh, rough because  
171 she always says it's not my room and she never wants me to do anything in there so, I  
172 just like own the living room now, I guess.  
173  
174 Clare Cinelli: How did your family react to you coming home from school for the rest  
175 of the semester?  
176

177 Jayla Sims: My mom was actually like really happy but I think that's because she  
178 missed me and she wanted to see me, so she was like really happy to see me again.  
179 She was like yay! like when I got to the airport and hugged me but she was still like  
180 very sad for me. She was like, this sucks. And I was like, yeah. My sister was fed up.  
181 She didn't want me to come back because she was having a good middle schooler life  
182 with her own room and she was like ew, now I can't talk to my friends at midnight.  
183 Yah, okay.

184

185 Clare Cinelli: And how did the pandemic change your relationship to your immediate  
186 family?

187

188 Jayla Sims: Um, I guess I care for them and worry for them. I'm not saying I didn't do  
189 that before, but I do it a lot more now.

190

191 Clare Cinelli: How has your family's careers and income been impacted by the virus?

192

193 Jayla Sims: So my mom is the only person working in our household right now. And  
194 she's a nurse and it— um, well, it could have affected her because in Texas they were  
195 saying that if you work in a nursing home, you can only choose one nursing home, but  
196 she works at two. Because, like, that's just how she makes her money and she works  
197 one on on the weekend and one on the weekdays and she didn't want to choose  
198 between one. But I don't know, something happened with that law, whatever it is.  
199 She's still working at both of those places. She's just mainly mad that she's not, she's  
200 not getting a raise at all. Nothing's really changed. She works the same hours.

201

202 Clare Cinelli: What fears, do you have about your mom working in a high risk  
203 situation?

204

205 Jayla Sims: I have fears that she could bring it home. I have fears that she could  
206 spread it to other people. I have fears that she will, I don't know, lose her job or I also  
207 have fears about her stress because I know she's very stressed, like all time, like  
208 working and she just she would she would really like as a raise. But I don't know, I  
209 stress about things like that.

210

211 Clare Cinelli: And how did the infection prevention restrictions and recommendations  
212 in your location in Texas differ from Chicago's?

213

214 Jayla Sims: They differ in the way where yes, we're supposed to wear masks and  
215 public and a lot of people don't though and now we're reopening a lot of our  
216 restaurants to like 25%. I don't know. That means you just let 25% of people in, I  
217 think. But yeah, where we were reopening like movie theaters and shops and stores  
218 and stuff like that. So I guess that's different. I didn't see that when I went to Chicago.

219

220 Clare Cinelli: And what precautions have you been taking when going out in public?

221  
 222 Jayla Sims: Um, I just wear a mask and I make sure to wash my hands and sanitize  
 223 them after I get out and not to touch certain things that obviously don't need to be  
 224 touched so.  
 225  
 226 Clare Cinelli: So what is the most challenging part of online classes?  
 227  
 228 Jayla Sims: Finding motivation to do my work because I really don't have a good desk  
 229 or place to work and I also live in a small apartment so I don't have much time alone.  
 230 And if I do there sounds everywhere and so it's not like a lot of time for me to focus,  
 231 especially when my couch is right in front of me. I don't know.  
 232  
 233 Clare Cinelli: Why do you do better either online or in person setting?  
 234  
 235 Jayla Sims: I do better in person, but I mean I'm bad at both because I, just, learning  
 236 stuff, but I think I'm better in person, because I can just, I'm a little more attentive. I  
 237 say little, but I just feel like in person it's better for me to learn and more hands on. I'm  
 238 like a really hands on learner.  
 239  
 240 Clare Cinelli: Are there any unexpected positives about your online classes?  
 241  
 242 Jayla Sims: My teachers are being a lot nicer about Grading which is good and I think.  
 243 Hmm. It gives me more time, I get to pick and choose the time where I do my work  
 244 kind of because some classes. I don't have any more. So I can do work in between  
 245 those instead of if was in Chicago I would have to be going to those classes and.  
 246  
 247 Clare Cinelli: And how are you and your professors communicating?  
 248  
 249 Jayla Sims: Mostly through our outlook emails. I guess I would say.  
 250  
 251 Clare Cinelli: And what keeps you motivated when continuing to do school work  
 252 during this time?  
 253  
 254 Jayla Sims: Um, I don't know. I'm just like, I already had these classes. So it's, it's  
 255 kind of just a mood of I'm already here, but the motivation like rarely comes, but  
 256 when it, when it does I'm just like, I'm already here, I have two more weeks left, I  
 257 want to get something out of this course and everyone's here just like me. So.  
 258  
 259 Clare Cinelli: How did you feel about Columbia's decision to allow all classes to be  
 260 pass or fail?  
 261  
 262 Jayla Sims: Um, I supported that I support that. I was like okay good like I think a lot  
 263 of people might need that right now.  
 264

265 Clare Cinelli: And did you elect for any of your classes to be pass fail? Why?  
266  
267 Jayla Sims: Um, I think. Okay, so I was about to and I signed up for it and then they  
268 were like email your guidance counselor or a counselor or whatever. And then I was  
269 like, nevermind. I was like, nevermind. I'll just, I'll just take the grade that I have.  
270 Because to me, grades don't really mean that much. So, and I knew that I was gonna  
271 pass all of my classes. So I didn't think that my GPA was going to take a hard fall.  
272 Anyways, and, you know it didn't seem necessary.  
273  
274 Clare Cinelli: And what is your ideal grading system during a time like this?  
275  
276 Jayla Sims: No grading system.  
277  
278 Clare Cinelli: On a normal weekday, what do you do well at home during the  
279 pandemic?  
280  
281 Jayla Sims: Um, I just spend a lot of time on my phone. I would say screen time and  
282 um, I guess, talking to my sister and, and just watching shows on Netflix.  
283  
284 Clare Cinelli: What new hobbies have you picked up during this time?  
285  
286 Jayla Sims: No new hobbies, I guess. I mean, YouTube. Watching a bunch of  
287 YouTube videos in a row. I guess I never really, I didn't used to do that. I guess now I  
288 do it now. That can be a new hobby.  
289  
290 Clare Cinelli: And how do you and your friends keep in touch during this time?  
291  
292 Jayla Sims: Mostly though Instagram, or I see them on Twitter a lot and we Snapchat  
293 each other and text kind of, and facetimes. So social media and FaceTime.  
294  
295 Clare Cinelli: Has your relationship with your friends changed at all?  
296  
297 Jayla Sims: Not really. I think the only thing that's changed is I see them through a  
298 screen now, but that's about it.  
299  
300 Clare Cinelli: And how much did breaking protocol to see your friends, cross your  
301 mind?  
302  
303 Jayla Sims: Too many times, too many times, especially because there are some  
304 people that like live in my neighborhood that are not taking it seriously, that text mean  
305 and are like, you want to hang out? And I'm like, sorry, no.  
306  
307 Clare Cinelli: How do you feel about the people not taking the pandemic seriously?  
308



309 Jayla Sims: I wish they would stop. So like it's just kind of selfish in a way I think just  
310 to everyone else, and to everyone that's out there working and to everyone that has  
311 underlying conditions. It's just kind of selfish.

312

313 Clare Cinelli: And what goals do you have for yourself and your space during  
314 quarantine?

315

316 Jayla Sims: A goal I have for myself is the same goal that I've always had, is just to  
317 continue working on myself trying to be a better person A goal I have for my space is  
318 that my family could maybe get along a little more just be nicer to each other. I guess  
319 that's the goal for my my space, my home.

320

321 Clare Cinelli: And what are some unexpected positives about spending time at home  
322 and with family?

323

324 Jayla Sims: I feel like I'm learning a lot more about my sister and my mom than I than  
325 I would have if if we weren't in quarantine because now we're always together. So I'm  
326 always seeing some part of them, so that's that's been really positive.

327

328 Clare Cinelli: What have you learned or what has changed about your family  
329 dynamic?

330

331 Jayla Sims: Well, I've learned that my mom likes to stress herself out a lot. Um,  
332 something that's changed about my family dynamic, I guess I'm growing a little bit  
333 closer to my sister. I mean, we are always close, but this time I feel like she would go  
334 to me before my mom if she really had something if she really had something she  
335 personally needed advice about.

336

337 Clare Cinelli: Has anyone you know, been sick or affected by the virus? Describe  
338 their experience that they had.

339

340 Jayla Sims: I don't know anyone that's been sick by the coronavirus but I do know my  
341 mom's ex-coworker, she doesn't work with this woman anymore, but she's a nurse and  
342 her facility actually got the coronavirus. It's not a facility my mom works at, but it's  
343 one of my mom's friends, so, and they said that they separated a hallway for people  
344 with the virus. So only people with a virus are going to be in a certain hallway and  
345 that some nurses are like I'm not going in the same hallways and if they put me in the  
346 hallway, I'm not showing up, but that's that's secondhand so.

347

348 Clare Cinelli: And how do you deal with feelings of depression or anxiety during this  
349 time?

350

351 Jayla Sims: I don't. just kidding. Um, I guess I I try to talk to my friends about it. I try  
352 to talk to my friends about what's going on at home and um just how I've been feeling

353 overwhelmed lately and stuff like that. I think it's always good to talk to a friend. I  
354 don't see my therapist anymore because I can't do virtual therapy because I don't have  
355 any privacy, but I'm going to try to book a session because I don't know. I need it.

356

357 Clare Cinelli: What resources did you or do you use to monitor current news about the  
358 coronavirus?

359

360 Jayla Sims: My mom always keeps our TV on the news, which is terrible, but she  
361 does that, so I'm always seeing a lot of stuff related to the coronavirus and I guess just  
362 the news app on my phone, or just the internet, that's really where I really do get most  
363 of my information from.

364

365 Clare Cinelli: And how did the news and or social media coverage of the pandemic  
366 influence your thoughts about it?

367

368 Jayla Sims: It made me really scared, I guess, because every time I'm on the news. It's  
369 just like, It's all that's there. And then, especially on the internet, people are crazy.  
370 And they will say things that make no sense.

371

372 Jayla Sims: Can you hear that?

373

374 Clare Cinelli: [shakes head no]

375

376 Jayla Sims: Okay. Okay, good. There's like kids outside playing basketball. Sorry.

377

378 Jayla Sims: Um, yeah, and they're like people on the Internet will just lie or say like  
379 really weird things about it that are not true and I'm like, that scares me, but I know  
380 it's not true. So I guess scared.

381

382 Clare Cinelli: What are your thoughts about misinformation being spread during this  
383 time?

384

385 Jayla Sims: This is a terrible time to do that because everyone is already scared, with  
386 the the true information that they've received so misinformation is just really a really,  
387 really bad influence for people right now.

388

389 Clare Cinelli: So since you moved out of the dorms on May 1<sup>st</sup>, what are your feelings  
390 towards Columbia when moving out?

391

392 Jayla Sims: If I get the coronavirus it is Columbia College Chicago's fault and nobody  
393 else's. That's what I'll say, I also just think it's a level of information that needs to be  
394 given because really students that live in housing really weren't given that much  
395 information, whereas other schools, they were like, okay, move out, move out now,  
396 which is also very last minute. So I'm very like on two sides about this.

397

398 Clare Cinelli: Describe your experience moving out.

399

400 Jayla Sims: So, I was on the road for 12 hours traveling from Dallas to Chicago,  
401 which was just a really long time. We didn't want, We didn't want to ride a plane  
402 because we just had too much stuff and it was just a little bit too dangerous for us. Um,  
403 so, yeah, I mean, moving out was just really hectic because we had so. Wow. Yeah.  
404 We had so much stuff. And we had to put it in a in a storage room for next year and  
405 decide what was going back and what wasn't, and they only gave us two hours, but  
406 we showed up early and we needed like five hours. Yeah.

407

408 Clare Cinelli: How were other people in the building reacting to the pandemic?

409

410 Jayla Sims: The two security officers at the front desk both had on masks and there  
411 was hand sanitizer in the lobby. Um, the residents that just stay in the housing that  
412 aren't students look fine. I saw a guy walking his dog. He looks fine. There was also a  
413 man, leaving the apartment. He didn't have a mask but he had on workout clothes and  
414 he he seemed fine. The workers were really sweet about the whole moving out thing  
415 also like very calm and understanding if we took longer.

416

417 Clare Cinelli: Okay—what do you think life will look like a month from now or even  
418 four months from now?

419

420 Jayla Sims: Hopefully better. I think maybe people will still be taking precautions. I  
421 feel like some people even just start wearing masks, even after this is all over I feel  
422 like everyone will be a lot more precocious if we are, if we aren't in quarantine  
423 anymore. Um, but I also feel like people will be a lot more joyful and and thankful for  
424 what they have in front of them and won't really complain about hanging out in  
425 friends with friends. Maybe they will probably but, yeah.

426

427 Clare Cinelli: How are your plans for the summer changing?

428

429 Jayla Sims: I wanted to go to LA during the summer. But I was supposed to work at  
430 least for a month or a little bit full time at a restaurant that I used to work at but that's  
431 changed because I just don't think I'm going to go to LA this summer, just because of  
432 everything that's going on. So it's changing the way that I'll probably go, I don't know  
433 for spring break or winter break or something. Um, so that's how my plans for  
434 summer have changed. I'm still hopefully going to get a job in some way in some  
435 shape or form.

436

437 Clare Cinelli: What kind of job are you going to consider looking for?

438

439 Jayla Sims: Centering looking for my first retail job because I really want to get into  
440 that side just, I've never really worked with clothing before but I've always wanted to

441 know people say to not and if I didn't get a job in retail I was just going to go back to  
442 my old job, which is tortilla tacos.

443

444 Clare Cinelli: What are your fears about working either in retail or in the food  
445 business once restaurants open?

446

447 Jayla Sims: Um—Germs, the virus itself. Yeah, just like a second wave of the viruses  
448 is really scary and definitely a probability. So I would be fearful of that and. Yeah.

449

450 Clare Cinelli: What other travel plans have changed for the near future?

451

452 Jayla Sims: Um, I don't think any other travel plans have changed. I was, it was just  
453 me going to LA for the summer that is has really changed. But other than that, I really  
454 wasn't going to travel anywhere else.

455

456 Clare Cinelli: And how is your relationship with school changed?

457

458 Jayla Sims: It's changed in a way that I have less respect for the teachers that expect  
459 100% right now or expect everyone to be on top of their A game. I feel like teachers  
460 like that are are just, they're really, they don't think about their students as much as  
461 they should think about their students. So I've been able to just recognize teachers like  
462 that and how teachers really just aren't as as different as, as we are. I mean, yes, there  
463 the teacher and where the student, but they're also human and they do make mistakes  
464 and they should have like empathy for their students.

465

466 Clare Cinelli: How have you expressed these concerns to the college and or your  
467 professors?

468

469 Jayla Sims: I haven't. I guess through my course evaluations. I could but, no, I really  
470 haven't expressed it to the college at all, or to any of my teachers, I just, that's just  
471 something I— I guess I could say I've expressed it by not showing up to some of my  
472 classes, but not really because I still show up to my classes, there's only been like a  
473 few.

474

475 Clare Cinelli: And how do you feel the college's handling communication? And do  
476 you think that they are doing all that they could to help out students during this time?

477

478 Jayla Sims: Um, I think as best as they could, they are kinda very indecisive um, I  
479 mean, I get emails that are like if you need extra help email if you're having problems  
480 financially, please email us back if you need to talk about any of your classes or you  
481 have concerns, you know, please email us back. So I think the communication  
482 through email has been good. But the communication through like access and what  
483 everyone has access to and what some people don't have access to. There hasn't been  
484 good communication with that.

485

486 Clare Cinelli: Describe more about, um, like access.

487

488 Jayla Sims: I think they didn't really just describe to the teachers. I mean, even though  
489 teachers that are already know this, we're in a pandemic, how much students can  
490 really be affected by this. And how important it is to change the grading, a little bit or  
491 change how you grade or how you view students as good or bad, because no one's, no  
492 student is going to be giving their 100% right now so I feel like they should have  
493 communicated that to the teachers and to and to everyone.

494

495 Clare Cinelli: What classes have continued successfully online? And how did they do  
496 it?

497

498 Jayla Sims: I'm a class that's continued successfully somehow is my Writing and  
499 Rhetoric two class which is and it's an honors class which is really weird because  
500 before when we weren't online. I was doing a really bad job in that class and I could  
501 not keep up. But now that we've transitioned to online classes he holds zooms on  
502 Tuesday. But they're not mandatory to go to. So you don't have to go to any zoom  
503 meetings and for his class he posts, all of the work like weeks ahead so you know  
504 when to do it. Mostly everything is worth five points, except for our final essay. Um,  
505 so it's really good. That class has been going really well online and we meet up with  
506 the group to to discuss our essays, but we get to schedule a time like when we get to  
507 meet up with those groups. So it's really flexible.

508

509 Clare Cinelli: And what classes had a harder time transitioning to online?

510

511 Jayla Sims: My voice class for non-theater majors somehow, but it makes sense has  
512 been going very terribly. It doesn't feel like a class anymore. Um, I just realized, we're  
513 being recorded and people can watch this, but I don't think my voice teachers going to  
514 watch this, but I just realized that, um, it doesn't feel like a class anymore. And our  
515 teacher's always having problems with the her Wi-Fi, which makes me honestly  
516 really happy because I don't want to have a zoom voice class because we're just it's  
517 just us making like weird noises through the computer and like moving our mouths  
518 and a really weird way. And she also gives us— which is which works a lot better in  
519 real life, but she also gives us like lesson plans and, and monologues to do, but none  
520 of them are assignments. They're just like. They're not assigned. She doesn't put them  
521 in as assignments, so you can do it whenever so I that's a good part of it, but it's just  
522 been going badly because I don't think anyone wants to do the work. I think because  
523 this is an extra credit kind of class like it's not as serious as the other ones.

524

525 Clare Cinelli: So besides those two classes, how have your other classes transitioned?

526

527 Jayla Sims: Um, my comedy survey classes online now so she will record her lectures  
528 and then we'll do a creative assignment, and then we'll do a response. And then we'll

529 do a worksheet all based off of the lecture that we get for the week and we have a 48  
530 hour grace period for that class. So that's in the bag. That's easy. Um, my comedy  
531 foundations class meets every single Tuesday and Thursday, which is a little bit much,  
532 but it's still fun because our teacher, Rick, is just a really nice guy and he always says  
533 that it's his favorite part of the day. So it's just a really sweet class. And we've been  
534 doing monologues through the laptop. So that's how we've adjusted and, yeah, oh and  
535 my, my oral history class, which has been going good.

536

537 Clare Cinelli: And how do you feel about your learning objectives being fulfilled in  
538 your major during this time?

539

540 Jayla Sims: Eh, I mean, I feel good about it. I know that I am learning probably just as  
541 much as if I would have been in person. But also probably not because I'm not as  
542 attentive when it's online. But they are giving me all the information that I would have  
543 needed when we were together.

544

545 Clare Cinelli: And do you feel like you're still at a good pace to learn everything  
546 about comedy and performance that you need to before graduation?

547

548 Jayla Sims: Yes, definitely. Definitely.

549

550 Clare Cinelli: And how was your ability to learn about comedy or how is this  
551 pandemic kind of affected your skills in comedy?

552

553 Jayla Sims: Huh. Hmm. It's kind of helped in a way that I try to find more things  
554 funnier. Because in situations of stress that's just what I naturally do. Um, it's also  
555 helped in a way just to see how my classmates react to it and how they're doing  
556 as well. And just like what we can do to help each other stay creative and work  
557 because I have one classmate and she is, she's been posting like writing prompts to do,  
558 and she's doing them herself, but she's inviting everyone to do it. And I just think it's  
559 really cool to see things like that.

560

561 Clare Cinelli: And how have you personally worked to stay creative during this time?

562

563 Jayla Sims: Um, I just try to first, I have to find like a peace of mind to to be in the  
564 state to work or not even a piece of mine actually just, I just try to create even when I  
565 don't want to, in some shape or form, whether it's small or or big or if it's just writing  
566 one thing down. I'm like okay I keep my juices flowing like it's fun. Like, I don't have  
567 to, I don't know. I don't have to make a mural every single day or write a 10 minute  
568 sketch every single day.

569

570 Clare Cinelli: And what are your fears about next semester and how the virus might  
571 affect future classes?

572

573 Jayla Sims: I'm really scared that we might have to go online for the first month or a  
574 few months, I just think that would really suck. So that's what scares me the most  
575 going online for fall semester really scares me.

576

577 Clare Cinelli: Why?

578

579 Jayla Sims: Because yes, online is cute and fun, no actually no online is not cute and  
580 fun or really good for my major at all. I mean, it's good right now because we, we  
581 were already halfway through the school year, when this happened. So we're kind of,  
582 you know, finishing things off like these last four weeks or so, but to do it for a month  
583 or just to begin with online school like to have that be the start of your classes is really  
584 not fun, especially just for a performance major.

585

586 Clare Cinelli: How will your ability to perform after your graduated be affected by not  
587 having this time in person?

588

589 Jayla Sims: I hope it won't be affected that much. I hope for it not be affected that  
590 much because I know that I'll be able to make up time. I know that I'm still studying  
591 right now in some shape or form. Um, so I hope that it's not affected them.

592

593 Clare Cinelli: And how difficult is it to perform comedy through zoom and what are  
594 the changes in the effectiveness of performance?

595

596 Jayla Sims: So we'll do like monologues. And I think it's so right now we're doing  
597 comedic monologues. But before we were doing dramatic monologues. And it's just  
598 weird because you have to place your computer certain way and then I'm like, Okay,  
599 I'm going to pretend that my computer's not there. And I don't see like twelve boxes  
600 of faces on my laptop right now and I'm going to perform this monologue. And that's  
601 really weird. And I think performance is really important in person because we're  
602 learning in person performance like we're learning live theater, live stand up just like  
603 doing everything in front of an audience. So to not have an actual audience there and  
604 have it be your computer is terrible and also lagging, there's just a lot of like lagging  
605 and the ability to to shut your laptop really gives you less motivation in a class, I  
606 think.

607

608 Clare Cinelli: What do you think professors could do and the college could do to aid  
609 students in performance majors to like successfully complete the courses?

610

611 Jayla Sims: Um, hm, I don't know. I'm not so sure. I mean, I really just don't even  
612 think we should be having class right now. If I'm gonna be super honest. But—

613

614 Clare Cinelli: Why do you feel that way?

615

616 Jayla Sims: Hm?

617

618 Clare Cinelli: Why do you feel that way?

619

620 Jayla Sims: I just feel like there's a lot going on right now. And a lot of people, their  
621 heads are genuinely somewhere else and you also just don't know what certain people  
622 go back home to and and what we have access to and just. I don't know, my mom, the  
623 other day, she was like, why are you all in school, you're not in school and I was like,  
624 thank you, like, we're not we're not like on the campus. We're not with the teachers  
625 we're not in the buildings, we're not, we're not present. I think you've been like during  
626 class, we're just is not present and you can feel that.

627

628 Clare Cinelli: What do you think the college will learn from going remotely and how  
629 do you think they might change in person classes?

630

631 Jayla Sims: Um, I think they will learn what a lot of students struggle with, or how a  
632 lot of students struggle. Like, I think they will get a lot of personal stories and they  
633 will just like see, also they'll see how many people have changed their grades pass fail  
634 and just how much grades can affect people and how much school is really a vital part  
635 of some people's lives. And I don't know, it's something that you have to adapt. so  
636 maybe they'll learn how to adapt a lot better to certain things or certain students needs,  
637 I hope.

638

639 Clare Cinelli: And how do you think society is going to change permanently and  
640 impermanently?

641

642 Jayla Sims: Impermanently we're going to be happy to be outside for a little bit, but  
643 then I can tell we're going to, I think people that are introverted are going to be like,  
644 oh, never mind. I'm like, I feel like, well, I'll be able to get like that one friend out of  
645 the house that like never goes out like after all this, they'll go out, but then they'll  
646 probably stop. So that will be impermanent. But permanent, I think. I think some  
647 people will continue to wear a mask. I don't know how real, that is, but in my head,  
648 that just feels like sensible and kind of cool if we just became a masked society if we  
649 were just like, wearing masks everywhere we go. It is. It's cute. It's a fashion  
650 statement. I'm here for it.

651

652 Clare Cinelli: And what negatives do you think society might continue with after the  
653 virus?

654

655 Jayla Sims: How some people reacted to it and how some people didn't. Like I feel  
656 like there, there will be Trump supporters that are gonna be like I wasn't even scared  
657 of this virus. Like I was outside like fighting for you all to come outside and like now  
658 you all are out here, scaredy cats, and then I just think there's some people that are just  
659 going to be quarantined forever because they're scared. And they should be. But I  
660 think there's going to be like a lot of fear in the air of like, oh this is not permanent.



661 Like, there can always be something to come in and change, and change your  
662 everyday life. So I feel like a lot of people are going to be living with that fear in the  
663 back of their head.

664

665 Clare Cinelli: And how did you feel about people's reactions when they were buying  
666 toilet paper excessively and when they were, you know buying diaper and clearing  
667 shelves?

668

669 Jayla Sims: Um, again, fear, like just a lot of fear and stress just going around. I think  
670 just those people were scared, but then those people were also selfish, just like people  
671 that don't want to social distance right now. I mean, they're, they're scared that they  
672 have people that aren't practicing that they are probably scared of it, not as scared as  
673 everyone else but still scared, maybe even just more scared to lose their friends, but  
674 still selfish. Or people who want to get haircuts. I don't know. They're scared that their  
675 average day life is like going to be taken away from them, but also like selfish.

676

677 Clare Cinelli: And how do you think your life will change permanently after this?

678

679 Jayla Sims: Um, I definitely will be viewing my relationships in a different form or in  
680 a different way, I guess, um, I just really care about the friends who keep in contact  
681 with me, maybe not even every day. But even some other months, and I understand  
682 that it's a pandemic, so people can't, you know, check up on you or text you because  
683 everyone's in their own state of mind, but it is really important to see the people who  
684 call and care and I think I would always have like a love for them in my heart for that,  
685 for being for us being with each other like during these tough times.

686

687 Clare Cinelli: What are some aspects of life that you took for granted before the  
688 virus?

689

690 Jayla Sims: Everything, I mean I, yeah, I definitely took like eating inside of a place  
691 for granted because I don't cook. I don't cook. So I took. I took that for granted. I  
692 guess I took cooking in my house for granted to, because that's really important and  
693 that will save your life in times like these, so that and eating inside of places with a  
694 table. I guess kind of having a job, but not really. I don't really like that. So I guess  
695 like being a cashier and like making money and like having like a line of like 30  
696 customers out the door was actually important if I wanted to make money. It was  
697 actually important. And even though I hated it.

698

699 Clare Cinelli: What are your feelings towards taking it at risks job during this time?

700

701 Jayla Sims: I saw this sign on the freeway that was like thank you to essential workers.  
702 That's it. That's the sign. And that was like a sign that like Texas put up but essential  
703 workers don't get paid more don't really get any fair treatment, still like everything is  
704 still the same. So my feelings towards being an essential worker, just like an at risk

705 worker during this time is. It's the same. You are treated the same. The only thing is  
706 you're working, you're working for money to help you survive and that's okay.

707

708 Clare Cinelli: And what was the most significant change in your life due to the virus?

709

710 Jayla Sims: I would say this online schooling has been a really significant change. I  
711 mean, because I would be in Chicago right now and I would be on campus so that that  
712 has been the biggest change.

713

714 Clare Cinelli: Was the most challenging part of quarantine for you?

715

716 Jayla Sims: Staying in this apartment with my family. I mean, yeah, I mean, my mom  
717 goes to work, so I don't see her every day, but I do see my sister a lot and I don't. I  
718 don't know. It's hard to find a form of privacy. I love them but that's that's really been  
719 challenging to like find my own peace of mind my own time to be quiet and my own  
720 time to be alone you and I'm never alone.

721

722 Clare Cinelli: Um, what do you think Columbia should have done differently when  
723 handling news about the pandemic?

724

725 Jayla Sims: A lot. I feel like there should have been more updates, more emails before  
726 March, even just about the virus in general and to stay safe and stuff like that and  
727 more information. I think a lot of people definitely could have used a lot more  
728 information because even on the last week, uh the week before we got the news that  
729 class we're going to be online, people were like are we saying in the dorms? like, are  
730 we still going to be in the dorms? Are our class is going to go online? Like we were  
731 asking all these questions a week prior that some colleges already got the answer to.  
732 So.

733

734 Clare Cinelli: How do you feel about the future, both academically and in your  
735 personal life?

736

737 Jayla Sims: Um, I feel hopeful. I think this quarantine will give me a lot of inspiration  
738 to just want to get out there and do the things that I couldn't right now, like all the  
739 things that I should be doing right now or all the resources that I should be using right  
740 now. I think it'll give me a lot of inspiration to use it.

741

742 Clare Cinelli: What resources do you feel like you should be using right now?

743

744 Jayla Sims: Um, the study rooms for sure because I really don't have privacy here.  
745 The open rooms where I can practice with other people that also do comedy, like  
746 practice improv. Or like the rooms that we would use to to write together or just throw  
747 ideas around to each other. I think that was really important and just the classroom  
748 and the teacher and like, like what we had before when all of us were working

749 together. It's really important.  
750  
751 Clare Cinelli: What is the first thing you want to do when society opens?  
752  
753 Jayla Sims: See, my friends. Um, I guess, specifically, yeah. See all my friends. I  
754 mean, yeah, just see them. We don't even have to do anything we could just be at the  
755 at their place, but. Yeah.  
756  
757 Clare Cinelli: How do you think COVID-19 will affect the future for you and your  
758 family?  
759  
760 Jayla Sims: Um, my mom definitely will not, not talk about this. I think because this  
761 will just be remembered as a really stressful time for her. I mean, stressful time for her  
762 and it will be remembered as a really stressful time for me as well. And I just. So I  
763 think moving forward. We will be like, remember that time when we were all stuck in  
764 the house together. We were all gonna kill each other. Look at us now. I think, I think  
765 it's going to be like a really like thankful thing. But it's also, again, like I like I said  
766 like fear. I feel like there's always just going to be this underlying fear of, like, oh no.  
767 Could this happen again? Or could this be taken from under our feet again?  
768  
769 Clare Cinelli: What are you most grateful for when thinking about life during the  
770 virus?  
771  
772 Jayla Sims: My family, even though they drive me crazy and I yeah my family. I think  
773 I'm most thankful for them because they keep me sane and they're going through the  
774 same thing as me.  
775  
776 Clare Cinelli: What else would you like to add?  
777  
778 Jayla Sims: Wash your hands. Social distance. Be thankful for what you have. Yeah.  
779 Hug your friends while you can.  
780  
781 Clare Cinelli: Is there any advice you would give to future people who didn't go  
782 through the virus after going through a pandemic?  
783  
784 Jayla Sims: Um, try not to spend so much time on your screen. It's really just not good.  
785 And it really sucks to be on a screen all day. Like be thankful for what you have in  
786 front of you. Or the people in front of you like the actual people that you're in the  
787 same room with. Yeah.  
788  
789 Clare Cinelli: All right. Well, that is all the questions that I have. Thank you so much  
790 for being part of the interview.  
791  
792 Jayla Sims: Thank you.