Covid completely changed my life. For me personally when I look back at how covid affected me I get a really bitter taste in my mouth. It ruined college plans, highschool, and the summer. Although I hate to look at it only negatively, I think you grow as a person in uncomfortable situations so I will try to explain a few positives that it brought me. Throughout this essay I'll explain, almost in timeline fashion how covid turned everything upside down.

The day is march 27th, 2020 and I am sitting in my principal's office getting suspended from school. As I leave the parking lot at about noon on a day where we as students get out at 2:15 I was actually kind of happy I no longer had to be in school. My best friend's truck happened to be in the shop that day so I went back at 2:15 after school to pick him up. Once we got to his house we got an email that stated "due to covid-19 reasons we will be continuing our school year remotely…..". Those first four words became the basis of about half the information I would receive over the next year. A positive, I no longer had a suspension to serve but my entire senior year had been ended. I was sitting in that office earlier that day not realizing that that was the last time I would ever be in a highschool setting. This was the theme that was starting to develop. I began to have things stript from me due to covid, this was the first of many "due to covid 19s" I would receive.

The date is June 6th, 2020 and I am scheduled to graduate. It had been cancelled for a while by then but it was still a big deal to many of us. Following our teachers driving gift baskets to our house for the sole reason of them feeling bad for us, we hopped in the car and went to graduation. However, we wouldn't leave the car, I could when I first got there to see all of my friends in their caps and gowns in a different parking lot. We drove the snake path that my High school parking lot makes. I passed each grade of teachers I had gone through previously to begin at the highschool as they were lined up throughout the parking lot. By the time I got to the front and past all my teachers it was my turn to step out of the car, walk up to the entrance of the school, grab my diploma, then instantly get back into the car and drive off. I drove off that

day upset with the way everything had turned out. This once in a lifetime event had been destroyed "due to covid 19".

The months of April and some of may consisted of me sneaking out of my house to see people. Basically the whole country was in lockdown "due to covid 19". I enjoy alone time but was never the one to be alone for days, weeks, and months on end. This was new for me and changed my perspective on a lot of things. This time period changed me in both good and bad ways. I grew so much as a person simply off of having time to reflect but the same thing that made me grow is also what tore me apart. Thinking too much can be evil and when I was in quarantine I saw this for the first time. For the first time in my life I was aware that I was being self conscious and just overall unsure of how to carry myself. I was confused, but all I could do was sit in my room and think some more. This created some dark days, however I can't dismiss the fact that some of these days gave me the opportunity to figure stuff out. Concepts that I had rejected spending the time thinking about, were now at the forefront of my brain because I had no distractions. I figured out things about the world around me, my friends and family, and most importantly myself. It sucked but I don't know if quarantine will hinder me when I'm older, I think I grew a lot as a person during this time period.

The date is today, Wednesday, October 21st, 2020 and I am sitting in my dorm reading the number of covid related deaths in America. 226,383. Just like that we went from the last day of highschool to now. The number rose so quickly I thought the news station was lying everytime I looked, It would jump 10,000 in a day. However, I'm sitting in my dorm reflecting on how school has gone this year while being in a pandemic. Everytime I leave my dorm I run through a mental checklist. Normally I would just grab my phone and my ID but now I have to remember my mask. If I Forgot it and was caught I would get kicked out of school with no questions asked and no refund. My friends have been getting kicked out of school every other weekend for having their masks over their mouth but not all the way up over their nose which is extremely against the rules. You can't have more than four people in one room at the same time

but we do probably every day. You always have to look over your shoulder in case there's an RA and trouble presents itself. The list of things you have to do because of covid is ridiculously long but you get the point. The amount of added stress to our lives because of covid is immeasurable. At college you're supposed to stress about school and that's literally the last thing I worry about on a day to day basis. How can I think about what I just learned in my business class? When Donald Trump is ruining our country, the political divide is at its highest in centuries, and there's a disease killing hundreds of thousands of Americans.

"Due to covid" we had to sacrifice a lot. We gave up things that everyone in every year prior to us had had. Mentally it tore us apart and gave the US some of the biggest Depression and anxiety problems it had ever seen, with a suicide rate that was going through the roof. For many people that weren't as fortunate as I am got completely destroyed by covid, and some that had enough money to go where they wanted and stay there, were unaffected. I can't speak for everyone on how Covid affected them but for me it's just put a depressing stamp on everything that's happened since February.