

Week of March 23 At Home Writing Activities: These Days Matter
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DAY 1

Writing Prompt:

Write about your experiences so far. What are you thinking of doing for the next month? Who are you with most of the day? What are you hearing about things going on around you, both in this country and elsewhere?

Text:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/14/technology/coronavirus-purell-wipes-amazon-sellers.html>

After you've read the article, take some time to write out some ideas. What do you think about what Mr. Colvin did? What do you think about the response from "Amazon, eBay, Walmart and other online-commerce platforms"? What are some arguments in favor of what Mr. Colvin and others are doing? What opportunities does this practice suggest? What are some arguments against what they are doing? What problems does this practice suggest? Should you be able to sell a bottle of hand sanitizer, that you bought for \$1, for up to \$70 if there's someone willing to pay that much? Why or why not?

DAY 2

Writing Prompt:

What will be the most difficult thing for you if you stay completely indoors for the next 3 weeks? What is something you actually look forward to about this time? How do others in your household feel about this? How are your other friends and family members feeling?

Text:

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/03/16/read-shelter-in-place-order-from-six-bay-area-counties/>

What are some things that you're surprised you can't do because of the shelter in place? What are some things you thought you wouldn't be able to do but it actually ends up you can? What concerns you about being given the order to shelter in place? Which job do you think is going to be the most difficult to still perform, the tasks that some people still have to report to work and do?

DAY 3

Writing Prompt:

How's it going today? What's happening in your world? How have the last few days been for you? What are you thinking about? What are you hopeful about? What is keeping you happy throughout the day?

Text:

<https://twitter.com/wilfredchan/status/1239399944466898946>

What kinds of things do we all need to do in order to make this an easier time for each other? What kinds of things have you seen or heard about that show some really bad (name calling) or really good (offers to help) behavior from others? What should we do about that?

DAY 4

Writing Prompt:

Who is around you that needs your support? Have you checked in with friends you used to see every day? Do you miss anyone? What has your daily routine been like? What's the best thing about the way your day goes now versus last week?

Activity:

Let's do something different on Thursdays. Begin a piece of writing that you want to be proud of in a month. A serious essay. A short story. A collection of poetry. A movie script. A graphic novel. A comedy routine. So much more! What's a style of writing that you always wished you had time to pursue? What are some examples of that writing style that you've enjoyed? Find a page or passage from one of those examples and try to write like it. Maybe you should start writing the UC Personal Statement? Maybe you want to turn everything that's happening in our world into a story? Maybe you want to finally write that letter to let that person know how you feel and how things got this way? Spend a little time brainstorming the kinds of things you will wish you'd worked on when you look back a month from now. We'll come back to this next Thursday, so don't forget about this! You might think about doing a little work on this each day.

DAY 5

Writing Prompt:

"Everything changed when the fire crystal got stolen." Write that sentence down. Now tell the rest of the story!

Text:

https://www.ted.com/talks/alex_gendler_everything_changed_when_the_fire_crystal_got_stolen

At the appropriate time, pause the video and try to solve this yourself!

Write a few ideas down. Were you right? How did you try to solve this riddle? What did the rest of the video help you realize? Take some notes!