Hannah Berdine

Friday, April 24

Expeditionary Learning, Block 1

Hannah Berdine Coronavirus Narrative

_____When I first found out about the virus, I was in dance class. My ballet teacher, Sergio, asked one of my best friends, Abby, if she had heard about the virus, since both of her parents are from China. She told him that she had, and so I asked her what Sergio was talking about. She told me simply that there was a virus in China called COVID-19 that people were dying from. I didn't know how to feel. Part of me was terrified that people were dying, but another part of myself said, *it's not going to affect us. It's all the way across the globe.* ***We have nothing to worry about.*** I thought that it would just be this terrible thing that we heard about and were insanely sad about. I thought it would be something we watched from afar and talked about and some chose to joke about. I never thought that we would be right in the middle of it.

I think that COVID-19 has affected me, personally more than a lot of my peers. My mother is a nurse in the MICU (Medical Intensive Care Unit), so she is taking care of COVID-19 patients herself. She is putting herself at risk to help the people who are suffering from this virus, and I am extremely proud to call her my mother. Her job, though, has affected our family as a whole almost as much as the closing of schools

did. My mother has been very sad lately, because she is seeing all of these patients, caring for them, and trying to reassure them, while knowing very well that they may not be alright. She has this one patient, who she has been taking care of since the pandemic started. He is in really bad shape. He was intubated, then extubated when they thought he was starting to get better, but he keeps having to get reintubated, and it's making my mother super sad. He actually thought that he was the only person with COVID-19 in Erie County. That's how long he's been in the hospital. My mom told him that schools were shut down because he's a teacher, and he asked my mom if they shut them down because of him. It has just been really hard on my mom, and I hate seeing her this way.

I think the thing my mother is most afraid of while caring for COVID-19 patients, is not that she will get sick, but that she will come home and get me and my family sick. This fear has caused her to basically hide out in her room watching crime documentaries on my dad's iPad, trying to distract herself from the fact that she can't go near any of her family. I have crazy insomnia when i'm stressed, so I haven't been getting a lot of sleep lately. When this happens,I usually would crawl into bed with my mom to help me fall asleep, but I can't do that anymore. It's really sad just watching how sad this whole situation is making her from afar without being able to help. I just think that this entire situation is leaving her a myriad of scars, and I can't figure out how to help her.

Me and my family are also really close. My cousins, Mia, Darby, and Falena, grew up living upstairs from me with their parents. I have two siblings, Lily and Jack,

who grew up switching from my house with my mom and dad, and their mom's house. I am usually upstairs, hanging out with my cousins all of the time, but Mia is super smart and literally isn't touching anything or anyone because she has read so much about the virus, Darby is an insane germaphobe, despite being a total slob herself, and wherever Darby goes, Falena goes. It has been super weird not being able to walk upstairs and steal ice cream from their freezer, only to get caught when i was sneakily creeping up the stairs to put it away (trust me, it happens a lot in my crazy family). Plus, my sister lives with her boyfriend and his brother and doesn't want to pass anything onto them, and my brother lives with a really close family friend of ours' son, Eli, who has problems with his immune system, so we don't really want to risk seeing them. I just really miss my entire family, and i want this thing to end as soon as possible so I can see them again.

I am an introverted extrovert, or an extrovert with some introverted qualities. I can use my time alone sometimes, but I usually can't stand not being able to see any of my friends, especially for this long of a time. I have been texting all of them a lot, but it's not the same as being there in the same room with them and actually talking. I feel like you don't realize how much you rely on certain things until they get taken away. This is going to sound really cheesy, but i feel like my friends are a part of me, and when i'm not with them it's like i've lost a part of myself i didn't even know i had. I guess it's just human nature to take things for granted.

If there is one thing that this pandemic has made me, it's lazy. I have been sleeping until noon, and then getting up watching Grey's Anatomy and reading all day,

then going to bed. I have started eating much worse than I was before, and I'm starting to feel like I'll have gained one hundred pounds by the time this pandemic ends. Some days all I'll eat for dinner is ramen noodles from the package. I have been on my phone way more than usual, and I think I am growing to be addicted to Grey's Anatomy. I'm near the end of the fifteenth season, and I am hooked. It's become a problem. I'm actually worried about what I'll do when I finish. I could just watch something else, or I could start it over. I find it kind of funny that there is a pandemic going on and i am over here worried about what show i am going to watch next. I need to start reading as much as I used to, because I have only finished three books since school was cancelled, and with all of the free time I have, I should have finished at least ten by now. I think I am slowly driving myself, and my family crazy, and I don't know how to deal with it.

Something that I have never really thought about, but makes me sad nonetheless, is how bad it makes you feel when you can't share the good things in your life with the people you love. I recently got my City Honors letter, telling me that I got in. I have told some of my friends, but I need to tell Michael and Aleiandra in person, because they have really strong feelings about wanting me to stay at Tapestry. My birthday is also at the end of next month, and I always have a sleepover with a few of my best friends on my birthday, but this year it will just be me and my family. I am grateful for the people that I have with me during this pandemic, but I still wish that I had my friends with me.

Overall, the experience i have been having during this time period is not so good, but it could be so much worse, and it is so much worse for so many people in our

community. Watching Governor Cuomo's daily conference has made it a bit easier for me to understand what is going on in our community, and how I can help prevent COVID-19 from spreading any further than it has. I also thoroughly enjoyed watching Cuomo own Trump earlier this week.

I think that in order to help with the situation we are in now, we must do our part by simply doing nothing. We should listen to the safety guidelines the CDC has given us, and we should help healthcare workers like my mom by doing everything we can to flatten the curve, to help make sure hospitals aren't swamped with patients that they can't take care of.

This whole experience has been a horrible one, a life changing one, but one that we were able to get through. If anything good comes from this experience, it will be that we have learned how to deal with situations like these when they come up, and we have learned how to work together for the wellbeing of our community, and the communities around us. COVID-19 has been life changing for all of us, but in order to get through it, we need to recognize that teamwork is key to any impossible situation we face, and that is what we will need to survive this pandemic.