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Senior Independent Project

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### How Does COVID-19 Impact You?

I decided to write poems because poems are typically used to talk about people's feelings and emotions. They bring out a sense of laughter, pain, or inspiration. During the pandemic, I think that this was the best form to express how other seniors were feeling from different perspectives. I interviewed mostly my friends, and one student who is enrolled in my mother's school. These interviews were conducted over the phone, and after I was able to get a sense of their feelings, I wrote the poems to bring life to their stories. I learned that through different stories, we are still finding ways to be inspirational, and to move forward through any obstacles. I'm glad that I was able to go through this experience because it helped me channel my inner thoughts, and turn them into a path to move forward in life. Corona will not hold us down even through our struggles.

Me:

I look at the birds nest behind me hoping that the wings that stretch will provide me strength. COVID as a senior is tougher than I thought. Who would think that I couldn't fly through my senior year with hope and promise. This year has felt like a barrier with great fear and uncertainty. I often look at the nest for a sign when I can unwind but something in my gut tells me you might be nuts. Am I ever going to live a normal life without masks and gloves or will I eventually fly with the bird and its young? Time will tell, my strength within will tell but hopefully my time will be without a doubt and without uncertainty.

Nicky:

I am Nicky, a senior varsity football player. I am smart, strong, wise and ready for the world . I tackle those who are in my way and make numerous touchdowns. I was in newspapers preparing for my future until my future said what future?  
Future said COVID, COVID said game over. Game over said you can play the game of life or you can rollover. Rollover? Yes, Rollover fighting for my life, life of my future or life to breathe.

I can't breathe. I can't breathe due to COVID and I can't breathe due to the systematic racism America has on me, a black senior football player. You asked me how's my senior year, I don't know? Maybe my shortness of breath is better here in the hospital than being out on the street. COVID are you trying to steal my life or protect me from racism or a future I am scared to have. Thank you Westchester Medical Center, I can breathe.

Taylor:

You asked me about my senior year living in the city. You may be fine in the suburbs but I am definitely not feeling superb. The seniors here in the city are definitely unheard. We have no voices to make choices. I feel trapped with limited resources. How am I going to survive when there is no one here to help us survive? Relatives are dying left from right and you want me to write online to learn when I feel an ultimate burn in my soul from my sudden loss. Good for you that you can graduate in person or by car but my dreams have to wait over there in the far.

Ava:

I was not expecting to be in quarantine for my big 18. I couldn't celebrate the way any other 18 year olds would. Party? What party? My party? What's the big one eight, when your guests have to stretch from one feet to eight feet. Oh wait, I mean six feet away. Although it may not be the party I expected, I'm happy to make sure everyone is safe and well from six feet away. I am not only thankful for the gifts and balloons, but also for the friendships I know will last more than just six feet away. Cheers to my friends who helped me wash my fears away.

Neighbor:

Excited to go off to college next year, but with the virus this fall semester it isn't clear. It is actually riddled in fear. I was going to move and have a different life, a life without strife. Can that happen or will I have to choose another life? A life of fear of sharing a room or will I live my life through a zoom in an empty room. Emptiness can be a bummer just like the 2020 summer. One day the 2020 summer will be over so 2021 can be a lot funner.