



The QC Voice

Writing Contest

May 2020

Editor's Note: With the Coronavirus pandemic forcing *The QC Voice* to suspend publishing its final issue of the 2020 Spring Semester, the newspaper didn't want to go completely dark.

We still wanted to hear from the voices in the college community — students, faculty & staff — by sponsoring *The QC Voice* Writing Contest and asking you to tell us: **“How has the Coronavirus/ COVID-19 pandemic impacted you?”**

We received several entries and when all was said and done, the Judges chose **Sophie MacMillan** as the winner of our \$50 gift certificate to the QC Bookstore.

MacMillan is a second-year Elementary Education student who will complete her last four courses in the fall to complete her Associate Degree. She plans to continue her education at Bridgewater State. Below is her winning entry.

By SOPHIE MacMILLAN

This pandemic has completely changed and sculpted a new beginning in so many different aspects of my life.

Since being in quarantine 35 days at home in Weymouth, Mass., I have begun to cherish the little moments much more than I ever did before.

I was very comfortable with my routine. Waking up, buying myself a coffee and heading to work. Work is my happy place. It is somewhere I must leave all my anxieties and problems at the door.

I am a teacher at a preschool, and the Coronavirus has forced schools to be closed for the remainder of the year. This makes me wonder when's the next time I will see my students.

This has been extremely hard on me as the time has grown longer. I had taken being able to go to work for granted. I sometimes wished for a day off. Now my biggest concern is when will it be safe to get back into the classroom again.

Being at home with the COVID-19 pandemic going on has been difficult in some ways. I do enjoy the extra time I have to spend with family and that is why I am still so grateful.

My grandmother lives with me which has brought a different level of anxiety concerning the virus. It has caused anxiety for my family members because she is more susceptible of catching the virus which makes it more dangerous. I have always cherished living with my grandmother, and now this situation had given me a



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bad feeling for being around my nana.

My sister still goes to work because she is an essential worker, but she is not able to be around my grandmother at all. My nana stays in her own side of the house, but it makes me sad not being able to hug her goodnight.

My mom and I plan to take my grandmother to our Maine house in May so she can be quarantined in her own more personal area.

This is going to completely change my living situation and life for a while. My heart breaks for my sister who will not walk across the stage for her high school graduation and will finish her year online.

It has been hard watching family members struggle with the virus but we have survived. It is a constant worry in my head, when will the numbers of Coronavirus cases stop rising? Will we ever go back to normal?

Even when I want to think about something else, it always comes back because it does impact every single thing in life right now. It impacts every country in the world. It is a world pandemic, and there isn't much we can do other than staying home.

On the brighter side, the pandemic has forced me to stay with online classes and further my education at home. I was so set on going away to college this year, and this has opened my eyes to what life is really about, my family and the little moments.

The things we take for granted are what we actually end up missing. I am going to continue my education at Quincy College, stay close to family, better my physical condition, and continue to work as a teacher.

I think that this Coronavirus has ruined many things and has taken away so much during this time. But it has also opened many people's eyes to what they should be focusing on.

I also believe that there will be an end to this. In the meantime, I will continue quarantining . . .