

Reaction to the Coronavirus:

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The urgency of the situation regarding the coronavirus seemed to begin suddenly, initially present in my life only through brief newspaper headlines and lighthearted internet memes, yet it progresses more rapidly each week, currently disrupting the lives of those all around the world in such a short amount of time. At first, I saw the virus as a distant problem. Even up until recently, I saw those who felt the need to wear masks or stock up on supplies in preparation for weeks stuck at home as paranoid and responding to the problem with overreaction. I never truly considered the fact that the coronavirus was capable of changing basically every aspect of everyday life; school, eating out, meeting friends, visiting family, religious gatherings, all coming to a halt in order to prevent deaths and the virus's spread. Social distancing has become a typical part of life. I am now accustomed to experiencing the majority of communication strictly through screens, seeing pedestrians cross the street to avoid coming too close to me, passing by usually bustling areas to find them completely deserted, and spending all of my time within a short distance of my house. However hard the lifestyle change has been, it is all necessary and I know that these precautions are ultimately beneficial and potentially life saving. This problem is relevant to *everyone*, without regard to the differences which usually create divisions in society, and it has been interesting to see the world unite in the wake of our shared problem, growing closer despite the new distance forced between us.