

Taylor University

Pillars at Taylor University

Communication

Communication Department

Fall 2021

Oral History Assignment: COVID-19 Experience

Taylor Rogers
Taylor University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://pillars.taylor.edu/communication>



Part of the [Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Rogers, Taylor, "Oral History Assignment: COVID-19 Experience" (2021). *Communication*. 7.
<https://pillars.taylor.edu/communication/7>

This Paper is brought to you for free and open access by the Communication Department at Pillars at Taylor University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Communication by an authorized administrator of Pillars at Taylor University. For more information, please contact pillars@taylor.edu.

Effects and Experiences of COVID-19

My interviewee was affected by COVID-19 in a way different than many others her age. Prior to the pandemic, she had just graduated high school. Rather than graduating with her class, she graduated early to spend time preparing and saving for an all-summer mission trip. She had taken on four jobs to make and save up money; in fact, she was working over 90 hours a week. Most of these jobs included babysitting, working at her church, and being a manager at the YMCA in her area. Amidst all the busyness working, the pandemic hit. While thankfully this did not affect her schoolwork, it certainly affected her jobs as she lost them all one by one. Just a few weeks later, her summer trip had also been cancelled. This was when the reality of the pandemic really began to sit in.

As COVID continued to progress, her life began to change more and more. People were pretty much in full quarantine and her sister came home from college. She felt very discouraged because everything that she had planned for the semester and summer had shifted in ways that were extremely unpredictable. However, the unexpected pandemic also opened opportunities for more unexpected quality time with family. Not only was she no longer leaving for the summer, but she had time with her sister in the spring that she would not have had if she were still away at school.

The state that my interviewee lives in was not as deeply impacted by COVID as some other states were. The state began to open up mid-summer, which allowed her to get some of her jobs back and continue to save for college. More specifically, people began to feel more comfortable with babysitters, and the YMCA opened back up. There were obviously new rules and regulations due to COVID, but she was thankful to at least have the opportunity to work again.

When asked to reflect on the biggest unexpected blessing throughout the pandemic, my interviewee said that it was the Lord's timing in it all. This was especially seen in her choice to graduate high school early. She thinks that she would have really struggled with online school her final semester, so it was encouraging to see how God orchestrated her early graduation to prepare for the pandemic.

While she thankfully did not experience COVID during high school, she did experience it when coming to Taylor for the first time last fall. While in isolation at home, she said that the pandemic brought her to a place of physically feeling and being lonely as she was away from people more than she ever had been before. However, this made her transition to Taylor feel more exciting as classes were in person and people were together again. Being on campus as a freshman, she felt very excited to be in a community where people are loved so well despite the pandemic that was still occurring.