



5-1-2020

## COVID-19 Journal | Henley Higgins

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### Recommended Citation

Higgins, Henley, "COVID-19 Journal | Henley Higgins" (2020). *COVID-19 Student Journal Project*. 26.  
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Henley Higgins

COVID 19- Journal

March 30, 2020

Coming back from spring break I don't think anyone knew what was to come. Our everyday schedule at Jacksonville State University was just taken away because of the pandemic. I didn't realize how serious this was so when I packed for spring break, I packed for the beach trip I didn't get to go on. I had no extra clothes no t-shirts or anything. My mom and dad finally let me leave the house and go back to Jacksonville which is only an hour and ten minutes from my house. One of my roommates was still there which was kind of weird to me considering everyone else left. I packed all I could and all I thought I would need. I headed back home after getting my stuff all packed up in my car. It was just so weird.

On any normal day, Jacksonville is so fun and filled with life. When I had to go back it was like a ghost town. It was very strange seeing no cars or people on the streets or just walking around. The pandemic hadn't really affected me in any way other than being at home, but seeing Jacksonville how it was so quickly, it made me sad. I along with many others I'm sure just wanted everything back to normal.

April 1, 2020

Nothing has happened in my life to be excited about. I am on lockdown and my parents are not letting up. They barely let me go and pick up food for them. "What do I do during this?", was the main question I continued to ask myself. I made TikToks of course, scrolled through all the social medias, and ate a lot of food. I started to see all of the mems about this man called

“Tiger King”. I didn’t really understand what that meant. I got on Netflix to see what it was all about.

I finished “Tiger King” in literally one day. After I finished it, I felt as if I lost every brain cell I had in my body. Unpopular Opinion: it was the dumbest thing ever filmed, that show should not have gotten all of the clout it did. I do believe that Carol Baskin is indeed a cold-blooded killer and she did feed her husband to the tigers. I also think that Big Cat Rescue is a joke. They think they are saving the big cats from cages when they are doing the exact same thing but in Carol’s eyes “it is a place for them to live until they die”, she is so stupid. Oh, and I also saw a lot of mems about COVID-19, and it honestly really started to bother me.

April 3, 2020

The number of COVID-19 cases continued to grow. I started to feel a sense of anxiety. I wake up, lay in my bed all day until I just need food, and it really was taking a toll on me. I would wake up and immediately feel like crap. This would make me go crazy and search the symptoms ask my mom if I felt warm, just being ridiculous. Well I guess not really, just taking precautions of what I let get in my head. COVID-19 is scary, very scary. People have died from it; I mean we are literally in quarantine because of it. Unable to do anything since everything is closed except for curbside food pickup.

Later that night my mom finally let me get out of the house. I went to Vincent, Alabama to throw some cornhole. It was fun at first, there were lots of hand sanitizer and social distancing. Six feet apart was how we all stood. I was having fun until people kept coming and we had quickly reached nine people. Then I began to have anxiety again I moved away from everyone; in fact, I was on the other side of the field. I literally thought I was going crazy.

April 5, 2020

Sundays were always so strange. We were not allowed to go to church. Well let me rephrase that, in the church. We had to watch church online, which just felt so wrong. How could something like a sickness take away church it was literally so wild to me. Sundays just feel so off nowadays I'm ready for things to be normal again.

Later that night, my mom let my friend Hanna come over. I really needed some company after some not so happy things that happened in Vincent. I was sad and just wanted to lay in bed. I didn't know what to do really when she came over because there was not anything to do. Mom let her come over because we had all been around her every day before the pandemic occurred. Hanna ended up staying there, and we had to sleep in different rooms because of social distancing.

April 7, 2020

Today I went to Walmart for the first time since COVID-19 was fastly taking over. Walmart was insane. I have never in all of my nineteen years of living had ever seen Walmart the way it was. There were lines outside of the grocery store because apparently, they were only letting ten people in at a time, is what some old man told me. I really did not believe him when he was saying all of that, and I was right not too because it was not true. There were more than ten people inside.

Once I was inside my anxiety was going through the roof. I had no mask on and everyone else did I did not want to even get a buggy, but I had too. I used a Clorox wipe to wipe down the buggy and I even got three more, two to put my hand on when pushing the buggy and one to pick everything I needed up with. The main thing we needed at home was toilet paper, so that was

the last thing I picked up. I couldn't remember if Ange Soft or Charmin was the right brand, so I just got them both. When I got to the checkout counter, they told me I could only buy one because of the pandemic. I thought she was crazy, why could I only get one pack. We started talking about COVID-19 and what things you can and cannot buy. She told me that you can only buy one of each of these items: toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning supplies, wipes, and masks. She then told me that they were not allowing people to buy clothes or shoes at all. After I had finally left, I got in my car and coated the germX on my hands. It was the worst experience of my life, I felt so dirty after.

April 9, 2020

Nothing much really happened today. I woke up around noon, and just laid in bed until I was starving. I finally built up enough energy to go downstairs and make me something to eat. Of course there was nothing, so I had to go get everyone food. No one could make up their minds because all of the good places had messed up hours.

We all finally decided on Chick-Fil-A. My sister and I went to get the food, it was so weird. There were people driving on the road but it just was not normal. It was almost like the little busy town we lived in was just a ghost town. No cars parked in the parking lots, places were closed, only ten people inside of Walmart at a time. Everything was just so off it was getting annoying. The restaurants that were serving were not the same either. Everyone was wearing masks and gloves, it is just weird.

April 11, 2020

Day whatever of COVID-19, yes it is still here. I am annoyed. That is the only emotion I have for the day. All I do nowadays is lay in bed. I cannot go anywhere or see anyone so what else is there to do. ABSOLUTELY NOTHING. Not being in Jacksonville is really taking a toll on my moods. My mom told me to go outside and run the neighborhood, but I did not if you were wondering. Walked my annoyed self back upstairs and laid right back in bed.

I started online shopping which is not a good thing. I bought swimsuits from SHEIN and got yelled at later on. Not only because I bought them but because I ordered them from a company in China so I had to listen to my dad tell me how dumb I am. I asked if I should cancel my order and he never answered so I never did, oops. I was in a mood so why not.

April 13, 2020

School is hard, that is all I have to say. Trying to stay on top of everything is honestly probably one of the hardest things with it being online. I hate it so much, I need the face to face time and not getting it is making me struggle. And when I struggle and have no physical help, I shut down. So today yes, I went and ran the neighborhood.

When I came in from my run, my stress level had calmed itself. Then it soon skyrocketed when I sat down with my dad and watched the news. Everything on every channel just about is talking about COVID-19. It really is sad, not knowing when things are going to go back to normal or if they will ever is upsetting. I never would have thought something like this was going to happen in my life. I just cannot wrap my mind around it. I just have so many unanswered questions, that no one seems to have an answer to.

April 15, 2020

It is all becoming a routine to my day to day life. Wake up at noon, lay in bed until I'm hungry, go downstairs to no food, and have to go get some. I miss my friends, I miss my grandparents, and I miss going out and doing whatever. I feel like everything has been taken away from us by this pandemic. Nothing is normal anymore and I want to know if it ever will be.

Isolating is so hard. Having to call my friends and talking to them instead of being around them is so strange. I have never not been able to go hangout with someone or anything. I get angry because I see people I follow on social media doing whatever they want and just do not care. They are around who they want to be and are defiantly not six feet a part. I just wish everyone would do what the news people are saying on the TV so this thing will go away.

April 17, 2020

For me, today was supposed to be the best day. My first formal ever with my sorority Zeta Tau Alpha. I was so excited and waiting not his day before all of this craziness happened. I bought a dress that was not cheap just for this day that went perfect with the twenties theme that I do not even get to wear. I am angry at the fact that this happened. I am upset that this day was supposed to be something I remembered forever was just taken away by COVID-19. Why can it not just leave?

I realized when writing that last paragraph that it seems dumb. Yes, I will have more formals but I will never get my first one back. Then I also realized what about the seniors. The girls were all texting in our group message so upset because they will never get their last formal back. Not only their last formal but they are unable to make any more memories. Their time in Zeta is over and they will never ever get that back. I felt bad for even saying anything about my first formal, but it really is sad.

April 19, 2020

Today was a good day- FINALLY! My best friend from Georgia drove to Moody to see me and spend time with me. It had been so long since we had seen each other and I am so happy she came to see me. We spent the day at my house, laying in bed watching Tik Toks. Of course I was on one side of the bed and she was on the complete opposite side. Six feet apart always! It was good to catch up with her and find out which boy she was talking to now.

Also finished some more school work today. My determination to do school is decreasing and I am counting the days until my first year of college is over. It honestly blows my mind how fast this year went by and how crazy its been so far. We have one week until finals and I am a bit nervous but trying hard not to stress and just take it day by day. Today was one of the most normal days Ive had since COVID-19 and I am beginning to feel like the best is yet to come!

April 21, 2020

My friend left and went back to Georgia today. So I am sure you can guess at what I did once she was gone. I cleaned up my room, took a shower, changed my sheets, and laid in bed the rest of the day. I was honestly shocked that my mom even let her come because she has been word about letting me leave the house and who I have been around. But I am really glad she did.

COVID-19 made me realize not taking anything for granted and that I needed to stop wishing for things. Everyone wishes for something, my friends and I just wanted a break from school. We defiantly got what we wished for, just not the right circumstances. We have the break but cannot see each other or do things we wanted to do. I now am hopeful that everything will go back to normal.



April 23, 2020

These journal entries are getting harder and harder for me to write because I am not doing anything different. I am exhausted of everything. I would do anything for things to go back to normal. I want to be back in my apartment in Jacksonville laying out by the pool with my friends. I MISS JACKSONVILLE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I miss school, I miss Cookout milkshakes, and I want it all back now.

COVID-19 is ruining all of the things I use to enjoy. FaceTime is no longer enjoyable. I have been watching my Snapchat memories nonstop and I think I have seen them all multiple times now, they are boring. I cannot lay out n my driveway because I get too hot with no water to jump in. See now I am just complaining. COVID-19 really is the worst thing ever.

April 25, 2020

My mom finally let me out of the house today. I drove around Moody and Odenville, somehow, I ended up in Pell City. It was very peaceful to just drive around with the windows down listening to music. I got home and decided to wash my car instead of sitting in the house listening to the news. I cannot take hearing one more thing about COVID-19. I realized I am not very good at washing my car, so I asked my sister to help me and she sprayed me with the water hose, and I got mad.

Later that night we ate dinner as a family and talked about everything going on around us. Spending time with my family I really have enjoyed. Aside from the circumstances and all the negative comments and complaining, it really has meant a lot to me just being around my

family and how thankful we are to not really have any issues with the COVID-19. The quality time and being able to be home for a while means the most to me.

April 27, 2020

My last journal, and last thing of the semester. It is really sad writing this one. I never in a million years would have thought this is how my freshman year would have ended. It is sad to think that instead of sitting in a classroom learning face to face I am having to do this instead all while submitting it online. These crazy emotions and feeling I have towards this year I will never forget.

I have a very strong hatred towards COVID-19. It has ruined many things for a lot of people. The things it has taken away from me are not major. And I do thank God every night that it has not taken away or done anything major to my family. I hate all of the heartache and stress it has placed upon many people. I am sitting in my bed thinking to myself I will never forget this horrible time of all of our lives. If I could I would take it away in a heartbeat. I really do hate you COVID-19, and I hope you know that.

My name is Henley Higgins, I am a freshman ('23) here at Jacksonville State University. I am majoring in Exercise Science, hoping to become an Occupational Therapist. In this COVID-19 journal, I talked about what I did every day during this pandemic. It may seem boring but honestly all I did was lay in bed and spend time with my family while on the couch. I have been in my little hometown of Moody, Alabama. If someone were to tell me at the beginning of this semester, I was going to have to move home, I would have laughed in their face. The circumstance has not been great but living through this pandemic has made me realize no to take

anything for granted or wish anything away. I do hate this happened but seeing the good through everything bad has been my motivation through it all.