

Write It Down: Involving First-Year Experience Students in a COVID-19 Community Archiving Project

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Overview of Project

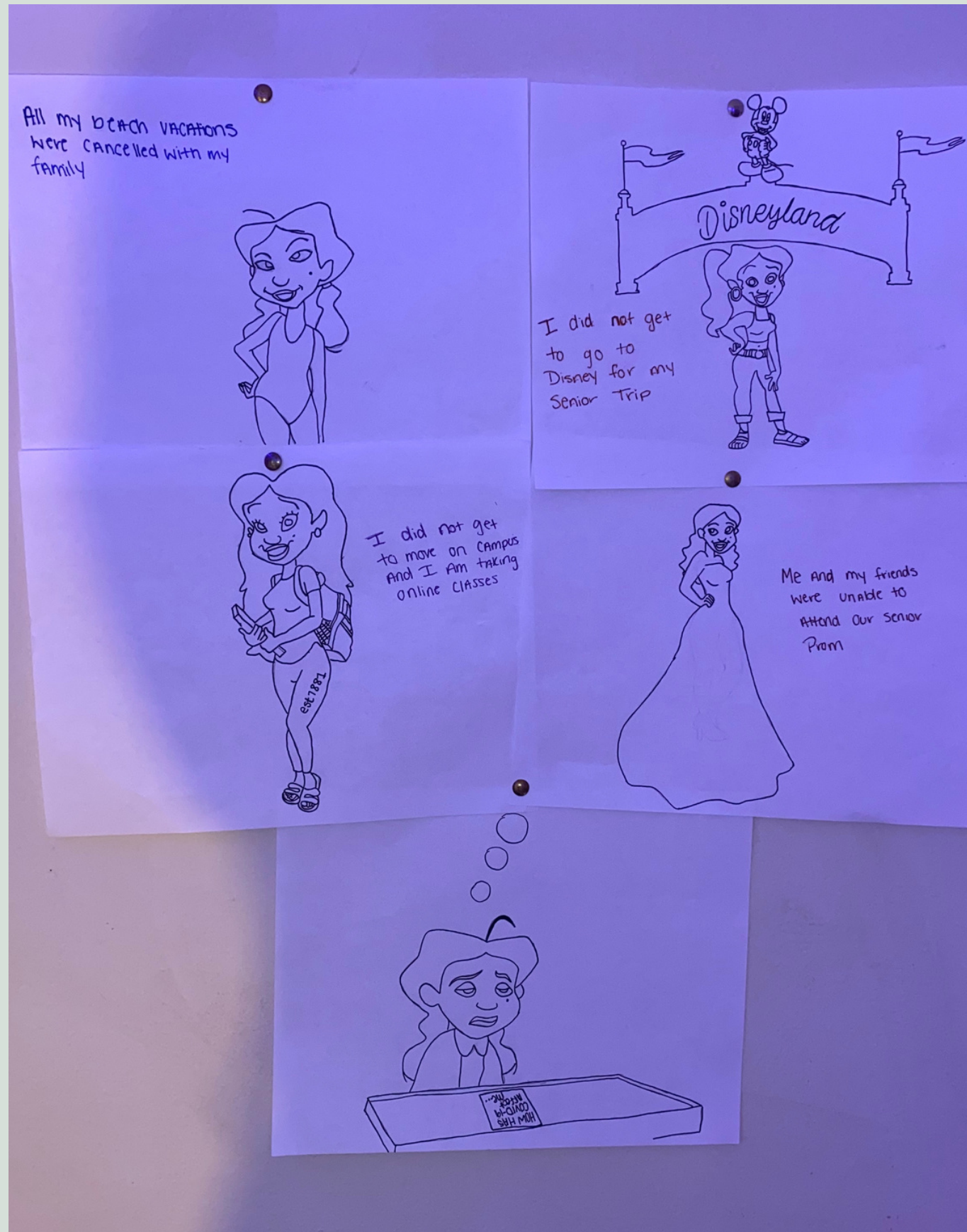
The University of South Carolina (USC) Upstate requires all first-year students to take University 101, a course that introduces them to college and university resources.

Librarians visit all sections of University 101 as a general introduction to library resources and services. Students are required to complete a library activity.

For the 2020-2021 academic year, students were invited to contribute a written or artistic work for the [USC Upstate Library's COVID-19 Community Archiving Project](#).

With permission, we are sharing the some of the students examples.

Student Examples



Student Examples

COVID-19 Community Archiving Project Grade 7.

COVID-19 has been the worst thing to happen globally in a very long time. I think COVID-19 has had many challenges, took away family time, and took away time from seeing friends. Personally COVID-19 took time away from me seeing my grandparents. They were in good health so I sacrificed my time from seeing them to keep them healthy. COVID-19 has took a toll on everybody mentally and physically but I believe that eventually we will beat this and hopefully return back to normal.

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Student Examples

Signs of the Time

She sat there and waited for what felt like decades and eons.

She sat until the leaves turned orange, until the leaves fell off the branches.

She sat until they shriveled and turned brown.

She sat until they froze over, until the ground became still and white.

She sat until the leaves came back, until the flowers bloomed in the fields.

She waited until the Earth faded away, until the stars stopped shining.

She sat until the Sun burned out and the Moon's craters crumbled.

She sat patiently, quietly waiting for something, anything, the smallest of signs.

The inside became a place of isolation.

The windows became bars and the loneliness became chains.

They bound and strangled until there was no more air, until she became nothingness within a void.

So she cried out, questioning when a sign would come.

And a voice ask her, "Did you not see how I changed the Earth, how the leaves fell, and came back?

Did you not see how the Sun never shined in the same valley, how the Moon never shone on the same mountain?

Did you not see how the Earth healed?"

Student Examples

What a Turn of Events!

On Friday, March 13th this past year, my life and the lives of my classmates and teachers around me took a drastic turn for the worst. The day began as normal, but by the end of it school was canceled indefinitely, and we went on to never see each other together ever again like we did on that day. What had happened was news about the Covid-19 pandemic reaching mainstream Western news and the fact that it had reached the US. Covid-19 was something that had come up on the radar sometime in January in China, but despite their own warnings to other countries, nobody in charge within this country began to take it more seriously until it began to impact us here, during March. Psychologically, the pandemic caused me much grief and anxiety at the beginning of it. The virus ripped away virtually all normality in my life overnight. I went from going to school every day to socialize with my classmates, see my favorite teachers and do activities in class that I enjoyed to spending 24/7 inside my house around my family. Being around my family all of the time was rough because school functioned as a buffer between me and them, and because that melted away with the pandemic, I had to cope with more of their mistreatment of me with much less space to help me deal with it. I honestly felt depressed from being at home. I can remember countless days at the beginning of the outbreak where I viewed the world from my bed in fear, constantly scrolling through news about the virus to try to gain some certainty on the situation. There were some days- spans of a couple of days at a time I think- where I did not speak to anyone, nor did my family speak to me to check up on me. There were some positives to the situation though. Being at home afforded me much more time to myself to focus on me and what I wanted to do. I spent time re-watching my favorite cartoons, got back into crocheting, and I read many books to help myself grow as a person. Eventually, summer came around and I got an awesome position as a naturalist at a state park near me. The state park job enabled me to finally get outside into the fresh air- in addition to giving me time away from my family for many days of the week. I also got to spend time around folks my age and get to know them. Although I had to grieve the many things that I lost since the Covid-19 pandemic began, I have also gained many experiences that I am thankful for.

Submit your project to the USC UPState's COVID-19 Community Project!

[https://uscupstate.libguides.com/
write-it-down-archiving-project](https://uscupstate.libguides.com/write-it-down-archiving-project)

