

# **The Covid-19 Pandemic**

A reflection on the  
past year

**BY JO-MUSULYN BANKS**

# INTRODUCTION:

*The COVID-19 Pandemic: A Reflection on the Past Year* is about personal experiences with the pandemic, especially as a college student.

I had the opportunity to interview two other Delaware University students to learn about their pandemic experiences. This pandemic has changed our lives in so many ways.

The purpose of this project is to reflect on the past year and see how others have grown despite the difficult circumstances.

While we look back on what happened in the past year, we should also have hope and look forward to the future.

This too shall pass.

**Damon Green, a graduating senior at Delaware State University majoring in Informational Technology shares his pandemic story:**

*Interviewed and Written by Jo-Musulyn Banks  
May 4, 2021*

**This year makes 1 year of the COVID-19 Pandemic, what do you remember that very first week of March 2020 before lockdown?**

**Damon:**

I came back from spring break and they sent us a notification via email saying if you went to spring break out of state don't come back to campus.



**Damon Green**

**What was your reaction when you first heard about COVID-19?**

**Damon:**

I just figured it wouldn't have become a whole global pandemic, I just thought it was something going on in China.

**How did you feel about having to transition to remote learning?**

**Damon:**

Being an IT major I was already used to having classes online

**Can you describe how the transition from in person classes to fully online felt like?**

**Damon:**

One of the big things I noticed is that the workload almost doubled for me and I heard from other students it was about the same.

*(During the lockdown, Damon kept himself busy by playing games but at some point he became tired of doing that. He later learned how to cook while on lockdown.)*

**In what ways has this pandemic affected you as a student?**

**Damon:**

I did mentally check out faster than usual but I'll also say it did help me learn how to self teach myself more.

**Being that it's a year later, have you seen any personal growth within yourself during this pandemic?**

**Damon:**

I can multitask better, I learned how to be independent. I also had to learn to time coordinate myself.

**In the midst of this pandemic still happening, what is something that is motivating you to keep going, especially as a senior who's about to graduate?**

**Damon:**

My main motivation is moving after I graduate, so I have to make sure I have everything in order.

*(Damon was hired from his internship last year for a full time position once he graduates.)*

**What's one positive thing that you'd say to your present self after experiencing such a drastic change within the past year?**

**Damon:**

Just keep going.

**Any advice for your future self?**

**Damon:** Stay honest to yourself. If you're not comfortable doing something it's okay but you have to be comfortable with being uncomfortable and don't miss out on opportunities because you're scared. Just live life to the fullest.

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**Meet Samyra Lucas, a graduating senior at Delaware State University majoring in Mass Communications with a concentration in Public Relations and Advertising. Samyra reflects on the 1 year since the COVID-19 pandemic:**

Interviewed and Written by Jo-Musulyn Banks  
March 23, 2021

**Do you remember that very first week of March 2020?**

**Samyra:**

The first week of March I was talking to this boy who lives in New York, we had gone on a date and two days after we hung out again

**What was your first reaction hearing about Covid-19?**

**Samyra:**

My first reaction was *what the heck is Covid-19?* My mom kept on talking about it, but in Delaware we weren't hearing anything about Covid-19 but in New York it was "COVID, COVID, COVID"

**As a student, you had to transition from in person classes to remote learning. How was that sudden transition for you?**

**Samyra:**

My first semester at DSU most of my classes were online, I was okay with the transition to online classes.

*(Although Samyra was familiar with taking classes online, she felt as though it was taking away her college experience.)*



**Samyra:**

“I was only there [at Delaware State University] for a semester. I’m like what is going on, I wanna go back to school.

### **Was it difficult having all of your classes in an online setting?**

**Samyra:**

It definitely did start to get hard.

*(Being at home made Samyra feel as though she was already done with school, sometimes forgetting that she still has classes to attend and assignments to complete.)*

“I just wanna graduate now” Samyra would say to herself often.

*(Aside from school keeping her busy, Samyra found other ways to keep herself occupied and sane during the early days of the pandemic.)*

**Samyra:**

“I was watching TV, reading books, I started doing instacarts to get out the house,” Samyra remembers.

### **How has this pandemic affected you as a college student?**

**Samyra:**

Well I just feel like this pandemic took away my college experience, because I transferred for the whole HBCU experience.

*(Before transferring to Delaware State University, Samyra attended a community college where she graduated and received her Associates degree. For Samyra, Delaware State University would be a new chapter in her college career but COVID-19 interfered with her plans.)*

“I feel like my college experience went down the drain,” Samyra said.

### **Now that it’s a year later and unfortunately we’re still in this pandemic, how would you describe yourself from last year to now? Have you seen any growth within yourself throughout this pandemic?**

**Samyra:**

I feel like I definitely have grown, it's probably not educational related, but I have grown personally within myself. Having so much time to yourself, my mindset has definitely changed. It showed me how

life can turn around so quickly and that you really need to treasure everything that you have because you never know literally what could happen the next day.

### **Despite everything that’s happening, what is something that is motivating you to keep going during these hard times?**

**Samyra:**

I would definitely say my parents because I would’ve dropped out of college a long time ago. My mom, she’s from Jamaica and my dad, he never went to college.

*(Samyra encourages her future self to never give up and not to listen to that negative voice in her head. “I have a tendency of scaring myself before I start doing things, so I would definitely tell myself to go with the flow and let God control whatever is gonna happen,” she states.)*

### **Where do you see yourself in 5 years?**

**Samyra:**

I would love to be working in a fashion or music company, that’s my dream job working behind the scenes. I hope in 5 years I have my own place, hopefully I’m engaged or already married. I just hope in 5 years I’ll be happy and content with myself.

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## **2020: The Year of Adapting**

Written By Jo-Musulyn Banks on December 31, 2020

Lately, I’ve been thinking about the word “*Adapting.*” We’re all familiar with this eight letter word. By definition, adapting is *to adjust oneself to different conditions, environments, etc.*

Adapting is a normal thing in life, right? In my own life I’ve had to adapt to new situations. For example, in December of 2018



I moved to Delaware after living in New York since I was a baby.

Later, I transferred to Delaware State University in the fall of 2019. I had to adjust to my new school environment.

You see, as human beings we have to adapt in order to survive, it's in our nature. However, I never would have imagined adapting to a global pandemic. The thought of it sounds crazy but unfortunately this is our reality.

I remember in late January of 2020 I was sitting in my 9:30am university seminar class, where Mrs. Perrine gave us a lecture about adaptability. She wrote the word "**Adaptability**" in big letters on the white board.

"We have to adapt all the time," Mrs. Perrine said.

She went on to explain the importance of being an adaptable person, we have to adapt in order to survive in this world that we live in.

Fast forward to March 2020, we found ourselves in a pandemic. Covid-19 forced us to adapt in so many ways. We are doing almost everything virtually, wearing a mask while going to public places and the hardest adjustment of all, social distancing from our loved ones.

As a college student myself, I had no choice but to adapt to a new learning environment. I went from being a student in a classroom setting, to being an online student where my higher education learning took place in the four walls of my bedroom. The sudden transition to remote learning was difficult to say the least.

Could it be that back in January of 2020 Mrs. Perrine's lecture about adapting foreshadowed the pandemic and the drastic changes it would bring in our lives? Or was it simply a coincidence? 2020 showed us how life is unpredictable, things can change in a blink of an eye without our permission. Life is about adjusting to change, the year of 2020 has truly shown us what it means to adapt.