I Miss Campus

With Covid-19 forcing people into self-isolation, I have been thinking about how it affects groups of people, particularly college students. As a student myself, I know college is difficult: it is meant to be that way. But who could have predicted a SARS-level pandemic to appear, suddenly forcing classes to be put online? It has created a new reality for students: without any physical,  face -to-face interaction, students have to stay home. Perhaps to younger students, likes those in elementary school, it may seem like a miracle; it is actually a curse. Online classes have hurt certain complex classes, such as advanced math and engineering or the sciences. I heard from one student that due to not being on campus, lab science courses have become extremely challenging, with only a computer program as help.

Being on campus was probably taken for granted -- I know I did -- to an extent. It allowed for some amount of structure with let students follow a schedule that worked for them.  There were set times for everything, so it was hard to miss work and/or deadlines. Now with online classes and no set schedule, students need to make their own schedule, which is truly easier said than done. It is much easier to miss deadlines. I hate the idea of online classes and see in-person classes as more effective, so I swore, to get through this possibly very long isolation, I would set up a good schedule, and I mostly have. But thanks to online classes and the disconnect social distancing has created, I have gotten confused on certain assignments, like lectures. I thought I would receive them one way, but it came another way. I felt annoyed and mad at myself for making such a stupid mistake. But this was a valuable lesson: social distancing and isolation now require students to have a lot more communication than before, between them and their instructors, if the students are to succeed.

Being stuck at home, taking online courses, is a big change from the usual college life, and it comes with its own set of challenges, like Struggling to create a good schedule, and getting work done on time. If there is one thing I can say with absolute certainty when thinking about the coronavirus's effect on students' academic life it is this: I miss my campus.

Of course, all these precautions are necessary for the health of myself and those around me.  I am also grateful the universities around the country, including Arizona State University, are doing whatever they can to make sure students can learn and continue their education. They have every right to stop what they are doing, but the fact they are still working is a testament to how much they value education, see the importance of their jobs, and care about their students. For that, I commend them.

I have hopes for the future, and am confident that, as students, we will continue to learn, and as people, we will all get through this trying time. There have been massive, dangerous upheavals throughout human history, and we have always prevailed. This is another upheaval, and we will get through this one, just like we have done again, and again, and again.