

The COVID-19 Living History Language Arts Journal

In your history classes you covered a lot of history and life lessons! You learned a lot about bad events like war and corruption. We learned about growth and struggles in US history – from rebellious patriots, to brother fighting brother. But you also learned about the innovations that changed lives, and innovators and humanitarians – people who helped shape and make our world a better place. Why? Because what happened long ago can teach us how to handle tomorrow. What we really learn is that the night is always darkest before dawn.

How did you learn about all of that? Through a lot of primary resources – we learn by actually reading the original accounts and the accounts of eyewitnesses. Currently, we are living through history - the rise of COVID-19 and our world's fight to keep it from becoming overwhelming. This may very well be the story of your generation, just like the story of my generation is 9/11.

30 years from now, your children will want to know what it was like in the bad old days of the COVID-19 outbreak. They'll want to know what it was like being out of school. They'll want to know what it was like when Target ran out of toilet paper and hand sanitizer. They'll want to know how you learned about what was going on. They'll want to know how you felt. They'll want to know what you did to keep yourself busy. Just like we want to know what it was like to live through the crazy events of the past, they're going to want to know what you lived through NOW. You literally have the opportunity to be part of history, right now, and create materials invaluable to your family and future historians.

Assignment Guidelines

Your assignment, for as long as we are out of school, is to keep a daily journal about what your life is like during the school shutdown and the days of “social distancing.” Here are your requirements:

- ✓ Outline what happened each day. What was the news? Did a famous person contract COVID-19? What was the weather

like? What did you wish you were doing that day? These are just a few ideas.

- ✓ Each entry needs to be dated
- ✓ Each entry must be a minimum of 150 words
- ✓ Your journal can be handwritten or typed. You can choose to make a journal cover (be creative), keep your journal in a notebook, or in a folder.
- ✓ You will journal all 7 days of the week.

Example Entry:

Friday, March 13th, 2020

Today was a whirlwind and extremely stressful. Just yesterday, we learned that the school would be closed in order to assess the situation in case schools would have to be closed. Then we quickly learned that Governor Whitmer declared that all schools in Michigan must be closed the following Monday. I was feeling nervous about how online learning would work, and that my students didn't have all their materials. But I know that students would be able to adapt to this new situation, even if at first they find it stressful. After I left school, I went to Target and noticed the long lines with people buying up cases of water and while I know that we are going to be okay, this was made me nervous. However, the one thing I know is this situation is in God's hands now, and I know there, we are safe as he watches over St Mary.