My "7 emojis" Journey During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Abstract

I am currently a junior at SUNY New Paltz, and this is the first time in my life that I have ever made a ZINE. When I am creating this zine, I am still in the COVID-19 pandemic. My current mood is very tired and complicated, but in the future, I may forget this feeling. I hope that seeing this zine again in the future will remind me of these feelings and thoughts during this period. In this zine, I will be documenting my seven emotional stages during the COVID-19 pandemic and how they are affected by the media (from January 2020 to March 2021). I don't know if you have ever felt this way, but familiar photos will remind me of special emotions and the situation when taking photos. In this zine, I will also use some photos I took during the pandemic as well as some online data when referencing my experiences. Most importantly, I am going to use emojis to represent these emotions because this year I had a very close connection with the Internet and I used emojis a lot when I text. I will also share some of the Apps I used during the quarantine and how I connected to the outside world. In the end, I will also share some of my friends' seven emojis (both in the U.S. and outside of the U.S.). If you ask me why seven emojis? I just feel like it :D
The beginning of January of 2020 should be the first time I paid attention to the news about Covid-19. At that time, I only paid attention to the Chinese media because there were not a lot of media exposure about COVID-19 in the United States. I was watching the increasing number of infections in China every day, I felt sorry for them, and thought about how to help people in China.

But I did not worry about my health at all at the time because I believed that the U.S. government would handle it well...
March 2020 should be considered the most memorable month for me. Many things happened during this month. COVID-19 began to spread wildly in the United States. All schools had to be closed. I clearly remember the moment when Governor Cuomo announced that all CUNY and SUNY will be changed to online learning. Everyone was so flustered and confused about this abrupt change. I used to live in a dorm on campus, but then was suddenly told to pack all my belongings and leave campus. I did not even get a chance to say goodbye to my friends. Everyone was in such a rush to pack up... All upcoming student club activities and course projects have been cancelled. At the same time, I checked the news and the number of infected countless times every day, and I feel very overwhelmed and scared.
After I got home, I started my quarantine life. From April to July 2020, I was actually in a good mood. The time at home allowed me to discover a lot of new interests. I finally have time to do things I did not have time to do before, like puzzles and painting. I also had a lot of time to think. During this time, I enjoyed being at home...
I did four COVID tests that semester. Every time I was going to the test point, I was terrified because I was afraid I might have it. My family was worried about me remotely, which made me even more careful and concerned.

The Fall semester started, and I had an in-person class, so I went back to campus. I was very excited to be back in New Paltz, a beautiful and familiar place; however, there were a lot fewer people on campus.
• Due to the arrangement of the courses, for the spring semester of 2021, I went back to home to take online classes again. I started to feel helpless and tired. Spending a lot of time every day facing the screen makes many parts of my body feel uncomfortable. I also lacked exercise and going out made me become irritable. I started to discover that I spent a lot of time with my devices.
In February 2021, I felt desperate and exhausted. I began to feel numb with the data of the pandemic. I didn't want to pay attention to COVID. I have been at home for more than two consecutive weeks before going out to the nearby grocery store. I also began to dislike dressing up and at the same time, a lot of work made me anxious and sleepless.
Spring seems to be here, and I am looking forward to going out to see the flowers bloom. There are vaccines available now. I began to see some hope. I hope to return to a normal life soon...
More "7 emojis" from my friends...