The Effect of Online Classes On Students

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The Covid-19 pandemic has moved a majority of classes, from elementary to college level, to an online setting.

I have noticed this having many effects on both myself and other students such as:

1) Less engagement
   Students are less engaged in the class and tend to not turn on their camera or mic. They also have less social engagement with other students outside of class.

2) Decreased Motivation
   Students aren’t as motivated to do the work and learn the material because it is easy to Google the answers to everything.

3) Harder to retain information
   In some classes, you are practically teaching yourself and it is hard for some people to learn that way.

4) Harder for students to focus
   There are a lot of distractions laying around when you are doing school at home like your phone, video games, etc.
Other than these effects, there are also many physical and mental problems that students have been facing due to online classes.

**Strain on Eyes**
from staring at a screen all day

**Depression**
for various reasons because you are stuck at home

**Less physical activity**
because you are always sitting at home for your classes

**Loneliness**
from social isolation
I know for myself and my friends that online classes are very ineffective for actually learning and remembering the material later on.

It is so hard to focus in online classes because there is no professor there telling you to pay attention, so it is so easy to just go on your phone the whole class with your camera off.

It is also hard to remember the material and we do not have motivation to remember it because it is so easy to just Google any questions we have.

It’s even worse with asynchronous classes that don’t meet on zoom or anything. In these classes you are practically teaching yourself which works for some people but for me and many other students this is much harder and we never feel like we are learning anything. We are just regurgitating information for discussion posts and tests and then we forget about it.

I asked my one friend how he was doing in online classes and he said “It’s fine, none of my classes really care about anything so I never really do any work.” This sounds nice in theory but think about all that money that is practically going to waste.
Memes are obviously a big part of our culture, some people see it as a way of coping with social issues of the time.
We were told that things were going to be somewhat back to normal but they are nowhere near normal. Anytime I visit New Paltz it never feels the same.

Campus is cold and lonely. It creeps me out to be there and I am so glad I am not living on campus because it really is a shell of its former self. It used to be so full of life and now it’s a ghost town.

When will we return to normal?