

Life In the Time of Coronavirus

Prompts to process your experiences, relationships, and values during this historic pandemic

Hello and WELCOME. Thanks for joining the 826 Network student writing community—we're excited to be here together!

As we are all grappling with a new reality in the wake of COVID-19, 826 believes it's #agoodtimetowrite. Writing offers us an opportunity to process, to imagine new worlds, to heal. This collection of writing prompts asks you to reflect upon how your experiences and relationships have transformed in response to the Coronavirus, and reminds us that there is power in writing through the most difficult of moments.

Ready to get started? Here's what to do:

1. Select one or more topic(s) from the options below, review the questions, and read the related article.
2. Next, create a list, freewrite, or [mind map](#) to begin brainstorming. Only respond to the questions that most resonate within your chosen topic.
Optional: share your brainstorm with a peer or family member to get early feedback on your ideas!
3. Choose one idea, phrase, or detail from the brainstorm to begin your written response. Before you get started, determine a preferred form: memoir/narrative, a journal entry, a letter to a community member (or their future selves), etc.
4. Once you're done writing, [submit your work](#) for a chance to be featured in the 826 Digital Writing Gallery, shared in a video on our #agoodtimetowrite YouTube channel, and more! Submit your writing using the form at the url below:
<https://forms.gle/hnhRSZEbbpvSYwMV9>

Prompts

1. LIFE IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

| Article Inspiration | Questions |
|---|---|
| Photos: Life in the Time of Coronavirus by Alan Taylor https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2020/03/photos-life-coronavirus-era/608101/ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does a regular day look / sound / feel like while you shelter-in-place? • What's been the biggest change in your day-to-day life? • Describe a moment when you felt most hopeful, frustrated, scared, etc. • Take photos or record quotes from a "day in the life" with your family members. What do you want to remember from this extended time together? |

2. CORONAVIRUS ACADEMY

| Article Inspiration | Questions |
|---|--|
| "I Can't Believe I Am Going to Say This, but I Would Rather Be at School" by Henry Dodd https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/14/us/school-at-home-students-coronavirus.html | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you wish your teachers or parents could understand about your experience learning at home? • What do you miss most about school? • How has this experience changed the way you think about school and/or learning? |

3. WHO BOUGHT ALL THE TOILET PAPER

| Article Inspiration | Questions |
|---|--|
| Fear of coronavirus sends consumers into a grocery-hoarding frenzy by Anne D'Innocenzio https://fortune.com/2020/03/06/fear-of-coronavirus-sends-consumers-into-a-grocery-hoarding-frenzy/ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What have you observed or learned about human behavior? • What kinds of human responses to the Coronavirus and shelter-in-place order have surprised you? Have given you hope? • Your daily routines and behaviors have shifted in some dramatic ways. What have you learned about yourself through this change? |

Prompts

4. #ALONETOGETHER OR SOCIAL DISTANCING AS FRIENDS

| Article Inspiration | Questions |
|---|--|
| Instead of social distancing, practice “distant socializing” instead by Melissa De Witte https://news.stanford.edu/2020/03/19/try-distant-socializing-instead/ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How have you and your friends been spending time together? Have your friendships changed? Do you believe “social distancing” is an accurate phrase to describe your social life right now? If not, what’s a better phrase? |

5. STATE AND LOCAL RESPONSE

| Article Inspiration | Questions |
|---|---|
| Opinion: Social Distancing is a Privilege by Charles M. Blow https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/05/opinion/coronavirus-social-distancing.html | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you think the best solution is to shelter-in-place? What other solutions do you envision? What does the national, state, and/or local response to the Coronavirus say about our government’s relationship with underserved communities? How do COVID-19 orders and policies, such as the shelter-in-place order, impact people differently? |

6. LIFE AFTER CORONAVIRUS

| Article Inspiration | Questions |
|---|---|
| Generation C Has Nowhere to Turn by Amanda Mull https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2020/04/how-coronavirus-will-change-young-peoples-lives/609862/ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do you think the world will change once the pandemic ends? When you think back to this pandemic twenty years from now, what moments do you most want to remember? What do you hope you’ll forget? Imagine your first day back at school. How will this return to “normal” feel? |