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## 20 Things I've Learned About My 20 Year Old Self in 2020

**For my COVID-19 archive project, I decided since COVID-19 has impacted the vast majority of my year, I wanted to do 20 things I have learned about my 20 year old self, since I just turned 20 a couple days ago!**

2020 has been one crazy ride. Yesterday I turned 20! This semester has been one of the only things I've had that's close to normal for most of 2020, and it's given me a lot of perspective of this year as a whole and as myself. Here are 20 things I've learned in about myself & life now that I'm 20 and 2020 is coming to an end.

1. Quarantine is HARD! Especially at the beginning of the pandemic, never going out was so tough. I felt very lonely at times and it was not easy.

2. Screen time is NOT everything! I used to always be on a screen in my free time to watch movies and shows, but with school classes and assignments ALL online, screens are too much! I've gained several off-screen hobbies now, like coloring and reading as ways to unwind so I get a break from looking at a screen so much.

3. I am not alone. This pandemic has shown me that everyone struggles, and it's not just me. Everyone was shocked by this and it's been hard for everyone to adjust.

4. A pandemic isn't something to joke about or mess with. Some people blow this off like the flu, but it's serious, especially with no vaccine or cure yet. I know because I have two family members (that I haven't been in contact with) that have COVID, one of which now also has pneumonia and will be in the hospital for over a week.

5. I AM A PART OF HISTORY!!! I don't think it's ever hit me that I'm a part of history because I've never seen any huge world or national events (I was less than one year old at the time of 9/11). But this, from the #blacklivesmatter movement, corona virus, and this year's crazy

election, will be something to remember and something in history books in years to come.

6. I've been doing math through tricks!!! In my math class I've learned strategies on how to add/subtract/multiply/divide that are nowhere near to what I learned in school, but they make sense numerically, and that is so impressive to me.

7. Motivation is a big part of staying on top of things. This semester, the weeks that I fell off the most were when I just felt unmotivated. So now I know how important that is.

8. It's hard to stay motivated on a screen! There were days this semester where I'd have class essentially from 10:30-3:30, and THEN have to continue to study and do homework through a screen. So going into the next semester, especially since it's still online, I'm going to try and find methods to keep me motivated.

9. I can do homework and NOT procrastinate! I used to be a HUGE procrastinator, but this semester I did really good at having my week planned on Sunday or Monday, and then working my way through assignments throughout the week.

10. Group assignments are hard. It's really hard to get everyone together especially through a screen. Especially when you get stuck with classmates who literally won't respond for days.

11. College is possible! I was always nervous about college because my dad only took a few classes and my mom never went. Only one of my grandparents has a degree. I was scared. But back in June I got my AA from RCC, and here I am on my way to a Bachelors at CSUSB!

12. I CAN DO IT!!! Yes, I've struggled with lack of motivation and more, but it's my 3rd year of college! I've even faced a global pandemic and I'm still here on this journey!

13. I REALLY want to be a teacher. I know it's something I've wanted to do for a long time, but after everything I've faced, I know it's something I truly want now because I'm still standing here even after everything I have faced on my journey.

14. I have a new understanding for teachers. With the pandemic, we as students had to adjust to online, but so do teachers. And while this is the first time we have seen that as students, teachers have ALWAYS had to adapt! There's always new curriculum or new rules they have to follow, and this pandemic has allowed us students to see how hard they work too!

15. Everyone seems to be a little more understanding during these times. I feel like with assignments, teachers are more understanding as to technical issues or just assignment issues in general and it's very helpful. For instance, my professor for psych rearranged the blackboard layout because she saw that students weren't understanding all of the assignments that needed to be done, which I even missed an assignment because of that. So she changed the requirements to accommodate for US because she saw so many students had an issue.

16. NOT ALL YOUNG PEOPLE ARE TECH SAVY! I have teachers that expect me to figure out new websites or programs but don't give instructions on things just because they think we can figure it out. Kind of funny, but seriously just because I'm young does not mean I'm an expert, I promise!

17. I don't need exact rules to complete an assignment. Thanks to this class, I've learned how to be creative and complete things without exact prompts, so I feel confident now instead of scared when it comes to assignments like that.

18. I learned how to vote!!! Haha, pretty simple, but this was my first time voting in a presidential election, and I was able to educate myself on how important voting is and I am very proud that I advocated my right to do so.

19. One of the most important things I learned was HOW TO USE BLACKBOARD! At the start of this semester blackboard was EXTREMELY overwhelming, and now, I got it down.

20. Most important thing I've learned this semester, and in 2020, is to take care of myself. I've

learned it's okay to take time for myself. My mental health is super important, and even though school is a priority, I can't be my best unless I'm taken care of mentally and emotionally. It's okay to put myself first.