

So many things have been happening during 2020. From starting off the year thinking that we were probably going to have a third World War and that was our only worry. But then the death of NBA's basketball player, Kobe Bryant occurred, police brutality and riots, and of course, the Coronavirus pandemic. This virus has killed at least 970,000 people globally, while some recovered though. So far I'm very grateful that I have not had a close family member been infected by covid or even myself. However, I had college friends that had covid and even had their parents not being able to make it unfortunately, which happened last summer. It's just so crazy to me how our normal lives have been turned upside down since the first couple of months of 2020, but it dramatically changed our lives especially when it hit Texas. When it first started here, a lot of us started panicking but assumed things we were going back to normal after a few weeks. Yet, even with a national lockdown, things haven't gotten better. But I did realize one thing. While I was stuck at home all throughout the lockdown, I found a new me.

In other words, the lockdown made me appreciate the littlest things like having my family with me throughout these very hard times to finally keep up more about the news/politics. Before this whole thing started, I didn't do such a good job keeping up with national and global issues as much as I do now. Because I was just stuck at home, I started making online friends (my current college friends actually) some which opened my eyes to certain subjects I wasn't quite informed about. Because of them, I started to genuinely care and educate myself on the daily about these controversial issues. Now I feel like I found things I'm pretty passionate about

such as signing petitions for BLM, resharing the posts of those that lost their lives unfairly due to police brutality and make their names be put out there more such as George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and so many more. When their names were gaining attention, I was about to finish my senior year of high school and when I wasn't on zoom meetings, doing homework, exams etc, I would just think about how corona really was the escalating factor in our world, besides all these issues that we have with police brutality before that. Many of us can say that this really wasn't our year. However, I still have faith that we are going to be able to overcome this. I'm so proud of us, class of 2020 (high school and college graduates) because even in the middle of a whole pandemic we still did it! I'm just glad that besides graduating and a lot of us starting college, many of us young gen z people are becoming a lot more aware of corona, BLM, police brutality and such.