

## **Dahlia**

Age 15

Grade 10

Somers High School

Somers, New York

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**What were your thoughts when the first COVID-19 cases were being diagnosed in China? Did you expect it to spread to the US?**

When I first heard about COVID-19, I didn't expect it to spread to the US. I just thought the virus would go away and not become a pandemic.

**How have things changed for you and/or your family since the outbreak?**

Everything has changed, I haven't seen my family in months and it's stressful having to check on everyone. It's hard seeing family and friends through a screen and not being with them physically.

**For you, what is the worst thing about this?**

Not being able to see my friends and family. I never realized how much people could make an impact on me until this pandemic occurred. It's hard to be happy in such a scary time.

**In your experience so far, what, if anything, has been positive about this?**

The most positive experience I had so far is spending time with my parents. This whole experience has brought me closer to my family, just from projects around the house to skateboarding with my parents.

**Tell us about a moment or experience during this time that you will never forget.**

I will never forget all the Zoom calls with my family and learning how to drive. This virus has given me chances to learn new things.

**Pretend it is the year 2050 and another pandemic is looming--what would you tell someone who has just asked what it was like to live through the 2020 pandemic?**

Your safety should always go first. even though it's extremely tempting to go out and see friends, it can end faster if you do your part to help.