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Unit Two RAB Project

**My research question is: How** has the pandemic changed education for the better?

**Introduction**

Since students are all participating in online learning because of the pandemic, I am curious about students' learning progress and process. Even though Covid creates a new way of learning that has many inconveniences, I think online learning is more effective than face-to-face school.

I participated in remote learning this fall and because I am an ESL student, it’s really hard for me to speak in a physical classroom. I would probably lose my confidence somehow while I speak because I am in fact an introverted person. Meanwhile, because I am introverted, it’s difficult for me to socialize.

Of course there are obvious disadvantages. I knew that students might find it difficult to participate or stay focused in the Zoom classroom. Also, it’s difficult to get face-to-face help especially when you have a question about a topic or subject. There will be some delay in answering or asking questions. Some points I plan to explore and find out more about are how online learning has changed student participation, student grade outcomes, student responsibility. What are new ways of learning or teaching during the pandemic that are positive and have worked well and that will continue even when we return to the classroom?

**Source Entry #1**

**Part 1 MLA Citation**

Harris, Elizabeth A. “Not Everyone Hates Remote Learning. For These Students, It's a Blessing.” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 20 May 2020, https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/20/nyregion/coronavirus-students-schools.html?searchResultPosition=10.

**Part 2 Summary**

In Elizabeth Harris’s NYT article “Not Everyone Hates Remote Learning. For These Students, It's a Blessing''. She makes the argument that remote learning benefits in certain ways. An eighth-grade student, Salah-Deen Founthia who used to have a hard time paying attention in the physical classroom discovered that remote learning helped him to pay more attention. Founthia said, “It’s just like one-on-one tutoring directly from the teacher.”

Harris explains that some students still experience difficulties. Participation is hard because they do not have tablets, devices, and reliable internet at home. She claims that students can’t socialize as usual and vulnerable students might not be able to keep up. But, Harris also believes, conversely, that On the contrary, some students can take advantage of online learning. There are several benefits for teenage students to study online, such as avoiding distraction and annoying classmates, avoiding bullying, working at their own pace, and taking breaks when students need to. The introverted students can speak because they are in an environment that causes less anxiety.

Educators say this way of learning provides another option for motivated students, some kind of hybrid mode. This mode benefits visual learners, because the information can be demonstrated in multiple ways. If the student were studying something very complex and difficult such as the Pythagorean theorem, the teacher can record the class process so that the student can watch it back and forth. Parents also claim benefits saying that it is easier for them to keep an eye on their child's assignments.

**Part 3A Reflection**

I agree with the information that Harris presents because I am also participating in online courses. Therefore, my experience is reflected in the article. Online classes enable me to work at my own pace. An introverted person like me can speak with more confidence during online courses: I can also review recorded math classes before the exam.I agree with the eighth grade student, “It’s just like one-on-one tutoring” directly from the teacher because the black board is on your screen. Furthermore, if you get tired during class, you can even lay down on your bed or sofa for a few minutes and that is impossible to do in school.

Reading this article was like a vindication. It is related to me. I felt like my inner thoughts were being validated that online studying might be a good thing. Meanwhile, this source tells me that remote studying works in a great way with certain students, especially for those who can’t participate in the physical classroom. So, online learning was effective for some students but not the majority. I selected this source because I was curious about the consequences of how a pandemic affected students' learning status. Before the pandemic people got an idea of what online learning was but it’s not a requirement to be processed and later on enforced by the education department. Therefore, I really wanted to know how it affects students of all ages and the benefits it brings to the student or the inconveniences it influences.

**Part 3B Rhetorical Analysis**

Harris accurately expresses her discoveries that inspire you to consider both sides of the argument.. The specific examples or quotes from either the student and the educator which are reliable and persuasive. Harris's purpose is to list some benefits of online studying, which were affected by the pandemic. The intended audience might be students, teachers, and parents. This article might have changed their point of view on online studying a little bit. It’s effective because she was finding the advantages of remote learning from the quote and different students she heard of who had improved since the online course started. Harris wants to be sincere so people believe her, and she can persuade more individuals. Harris is credible because she was a NY Times reporter since 2009, who has covered education, retail companies for the business section. Her work has been honored with awards from the New York Press Club and the Silurians Press Club.

**Part 4: Notable Quotables**

“At home, it seems to be a bit easier to focus on all the work I’m getting and it’s almost like we’re one on one with the teacher,” Salah-Deen said.

“When they’re learning the Pythagorean theorem, why not give them some multimedia that they can go backward and forward and watch over and over?

**Source Entry# 2**

**Part 1 MLA Citation**

Darby, Flower. “Never Waste a Good Crisis: What to Keep from Pandemic Teaching Strategies.” *THE Campus/Part of Time Higher Education*, 6 Oct. 2021, https://www.timeshighereducation.com/campus/never-waste-good-crisis-what-keep-pandemic-teaching-strategies.

**Part 2 Summary**

Educator Flower Darby expressed straight to teachers in “Never Waste a Good Crisis: What to Keep from Pandemic Teaching Strategies.” She states that we should not waste the crisis that we have just been through, teachers must keep some method of online learning and continue to use technology as a learning platform even after returning to the school. The teacher remembers the function of every teaching software or website so if students return to the classroom they can be more prepared and find a different way to gain knowledge. Teachers can assign pre-class reading quizzes online before they come to class and students can create a chatting room just to communicate. Some Kids explain very clearly, especially in peer-to-peer conversation. Through online platforms, teachers can announce upcoming deadlines, give a little bit of motivation using encouraging words. A strategy that teachers should maintain is to keep checking with students more frequently to see how they are doing or their understanding of class materials. If we keep using our software and tools, students can participate anywhere in the world. The teachers should keep those technology-enabled strategies to support students.

**Part 3A Reflection**

I agree with the information Darby provides in “Never Waste a Good Crisis: What to Keep from Pandemic Teaching Strategies.” because there should be some benefits of online learning that a physical classroom can’t cover, such as mobility, flexibility, and functionality. I also believe that the way of teaching will affect students very much. Darby wants to mention that innovation in a crisis should not be abandoned. Teachers must take advantage of websites and software. Teachers might gain strategies that form a hybrid, convenient, modern way of teaching which is more effective for the student. I selected this source because I was curious about what would change education. Meanwhile, what is the teacher's reaction to online studying?

**Part 3B Rhetorical Analysis**

Darby is speaking in the video informing the educator and parents, inspiring students. The purpose of this video is to provide a general proposal on what teachers can keep after the pandemic in order to support their students better. The genre is video recording. Darby wants to share her thoughts in a professional talk, sort of like a zoom meeting. Darby is an inclusive teaching scholar at Northern Arizona University. Therefore her point of view was considerable.

**Part 4: Notable Quotables**

“We know that sometimes students can explain concepts more effectively to each other through a peer-to-peer instruction process. The online discussion forum, when we structure that with carefully nuanced and crafted questions, can be a great way to support student learning from and with each other.”

“Now another strategy that we want to hold on to as we return to the classroom is to check in with students more frequently. If we were teaching in Zoom during the pandemic, many of us adopted the use of Zoom polls or surveys or similar kinds of informal, even anonymous ways of checking in with students to see how they’re doing with understanding class material, to check in with them socially or informally as well. And students are asking us to continue that.”

**Source Entry #3: Interview with my friend Jia En Chen**

**Part 1 MLA Citation**

Jia En, Chen, [Cunyfirst hybrid class student]. Personal Interview via Discord. Queens, NY and Manhattan, NY 17 Nov 2021.

**Part 2 Summary**

Jia En is a CLIP (which is a Cuny academic program) student and he took both online courses on Monday & Wednesday and in-person courses on Tuesday & Thursday. Therefore I interviewed him for the advantages and disadvantages of both being in the classroom and learning remotely. Jia En illustrates his experience of interacting in two modes by taking online and in-person classes. Jia En said “It’s very easy to lose attention during physical classes, I need to drink some red bull or coffee to stay focused.” Jia En says online learning is different and he is able to stay focused: “It’s very quiet in my room, so I can read and study without distraction.” Furthermore, he told me that he is currently living in Queens but his physical classroom is in upper Manhattan near W. 125th Street. Therefore he felt more convenient about saving the commute time to school and getting more sleep. (By reading the article “[Sleep, Learning, and Memory](https://healthysleep.med.harvard.edu/healthy/matters/benefits-of-sleep/learning-memory)” Students need time to sleep, in order to remember new information they have learned. Also, he discovered that he could stay focused in his room with less distraction. He gave some examples of being interrupted during in-person class lessons such as hearing the vehicle drive by, chatting about hip-hop music by whispering with his classmate. Moreover, as an ESL speaker, Jia En and his classmates feel more comfortable speaking in online courses with less anxiety and familiar environment. If other students make fun of him, he won’t even realize it and he won’t feel anxiety. When the ESL students were participating in the in-person classroom they seemed to be shy to speak and they had to deal with the social pressure. Jia En thinks staying in a comfortable and familiar home place for class will help him stay focused, and he doesn’t have to eat outside with expensive lunch costs.

**Part 3a Reflection**

I agree with Jia En’s points on remote learning and sometimes I feel the same way. I am an introverted ESL student so it’s hard for me to socialize and speak during class but online learning avoids socializing and reduces nervousness for me.

When I was participating in math courses I was able to look at solving steps then take a screenshot and it’s different from a physical classroom. In a physical classroom I have to copy what the teacher is writing in order to keep up and as the lecture becomes more difficult the teacher will use the whole blackboard. So the information sometimes messes up, especially when I am taking notes and it’s hard for me to comprehend. Remote learning avoids this problem because of the screenshot and recorded lecture. These are very helpful for students.

**Part 3b Rhetorical Analysis**

The interview was a conversation between us. I was able to relate him to previous resources I found, and they pretty much demonstrated all the advantages that remote study contains. I chose to interview Jia En because he was participating in online and in-person classes at the same time, therefore I was curious about his experience.

**Part 4 Notable Quotable**

“ I can stay focused in my room with less distraction”

“When they were participating in-person classroom they seemed to be shy to speak and they had to deal with the social pressure.”

CONCLUSION

In my research, I discovered some benefits of remote learning. Such as students concentrating and speaking frequently in a comfortable environment, students may access recorded courses before the exam. I am surprised that I could find articles and videos about the advantages of remote learning because people think it is terrible. Now I understand why people hate online learning and how some people benefit from it. My learning on this topic is important because the majority of people don’t appreciate remote study during and after the pandemic. My studies give some ideas that might inspire some people. They might be educators and students. They need to know about my research before they consider which modes are more effective for them. Moreover, educators can extract the advantages of both modes and forge a new way of teaching so that students can comprehend better. If the teacher can record their lecture on video. Then, the students can participate and learn in any period of time to fit their schedule. This can be a better way to study and it’s more convenient.