Create a Primary Source Project
Quarantine Journal
"We're All a Part of History"

Context:

Currently, we are experiencing something that your children and grandchildren will study about in their history classes. This thing we are all a part of, it's living history. As a student, you're a part of this!. Schools are closed; sports are cancelled; people are quarantined on a GLOBAL level. During this process, as mini historians (that's you), it's important that we record our experiences to create primary sources. Primary sources are immediate, first-hand accounts of a topic, from people who had a direct connection with it. The best thing you can do is to keep a journal over the next 4+ weeks. Handwritten, typed, in photographs or drawings. Record events, day to day activities, fears and feelings. You can create a video journal if that's the media you prefer. Interview your parents, siblings, family members, have those people interview you, you're a part of it. Looking back in 5, 10, 20, 50 years from now you will share this experience. Create a tangible and primary source of your present history to teach our future generations. Your unique daily observations will serve as primary sources to the people in the future. Be a part of history! Be authentic. Be honest. Be reflective. Pay attention to the details.

Directions:

From now until we go back to school, you will be working on your own video diary. **If you don't have access to a computer, you can write your diary**
Your job is to chronicle the changes you observe as your community, the country, and the world respond to Covid19. Each day, take note of what you are seeing and hearing on the news, among your friends, within your family, and in your community. Feel free to use video, written language, poetry, sketches, or other means of expression as you document your experience during this global pandemic. The questions below are to guide your thinking. You do not need to respond to all of them. In fact, you are encouraged to ask your own.

- You must have 4 total entries (spread out over the next few weeks)
- Every Friday, you will have to turn in your current week's progress as a "check in" by 3:00 pm. This is to ensure that you stay on task with the assignment. Each "check in" will be worth a portion of your overall final assessment average.

Each entry MUST include:
1. What "day" it is (ex: Day 1, Day 2, etc.) Be sure to include the actual date as well
    a) For example, "Today is April 28, which makes it Day 3"
    b) Use April 20, 2020 as Day 1 → "Today is April 20, 2020, and I am supposed to be back in school from Spring Break, but I am not there because the world exploded. Here's what's happened in the past week."
    c) **YOU MUST HAVE A DAY 1 ENTRY*
2. What have you done today? Or will be doing today?
3. What is new in the news today? What is the news source?
4. How many total cases? How many total deaths? Be sure to note if it's just United States totals, New York totals, or worldwide totals.

Guided Questions:

- Something you miss from before quarantine
- Something you are glad that came out of the quarantine
- How well online school is going
- How often do you video chat with your friends
- Have you gotten TikTok famous yet (I mean you have so much time to practice those moves)
- Did your mom/dad fight someone for toilet paper today? Are you out of toilet paper? What are other scarce items you are noticing?
- What are you doing with all your free time?
- What are you currently binging on Netflix/Amazon/Hulu/Disney?
- What did the government announce/declare/implement today? Does it make sense? Does it impact your life? Why or why not? How did your family respond?
- What is open in your neighborhood? What is closed?
- What does your neighborhood look like?
- How is today different from yesterday for you, your family, our nation, the world?
- Do you see an example of racism, privilege, and income inequality in any of the evens that happened today? (Locally, at the state level, nationally, or the world?)
- Did you see anything today that gave you hope? Anxiety? Fear? (In person, in the news, or on social media?)
- What does your family need today that you might not have, have enough of, or have no access to acquire?
- What do you and your family have that others may need?

**The project is the time for you to get personal, funny, serious, or not. Be yourself. Remember, the only people watching this is your teacher (me), and maybe your future children. Use this as therapy if you're having a bad day, or a "shout from the rooftops" type of good day. Focus on the good things happening today like volunteer efforts, neighbors helping neighbors, etc. There is more going on than death right now. Research the benefits that the isolation has had on nature, relationships and other things around the world.