

Inside and on the Bright Side

This time inside has required me to be stronger inside. I try to stay positive in a world that is so negative.

I decided to stay with my family during this time and since my little sister was so gracious as to not let me share her oversized room with her, I sleep in the den overlooking the living room/kitchen in the 2 bed townhome she shares with my parents.

On the bright side, I am up when the first person is up for work, so I get to start my schoolwork early.

While there are two bathrooms, the hot water does not appreciate multitasking and only allows you to choose to use shower 1, shower 2, the dishwasher, or the washing machine.

On the bright side, I shower fast and have only been a part of a hot water war twice.

The WIFI is a little less than ideal so my family must team up and take everything offline when my dad has an interview, or my sister's zoom classes, or my quizzes and exams. You better have your schedule on the family calendar if you want full streaming rights.

On the bright side, it has made me think about how just access to WIFI has given me an advantage to life.

My parents are nervous when my sister and I go on a run because they have seen the racist verbal and physical attacks against Asian Americans on the news.

On the bright side, we live in a friendly neighborhood and have not experienced anything other than friendly waves and polite conversations.

I have a new appreciation for what I have. It is easy for me to complain about the difficulties of taking an exam while worrying about the internet cutting out or fighting with my sister for hot water, but I am lucky. I think about the families that share a one room but must stay in. What about the people who cannot interview for jobs because they do not have WIFI for virtual interviews? What about the students who cannot attend online classes or virtually take exams because they do not have access to a computer and all the libraries are closed? I have been lucky enough where I have not had to defend myself or others against racist attacks. But the more I see this topic pop up on my TV the more I worry I will have to soon. This was not written to dismiss any struggles that others are going through by saying that someone else is having a worse time. I am writing this to say that having to struggle a little bit during this time has made me think about the people who go through this on a normal day. I feel that the largest lesson I have learned next to living positively is empathy and this is a lesson I plan to walk away from this experience with.