

Behrman  
English 1102  
Extra-Credit Assignment  
Spring 2020

Our struggle with the Coronavirus has caused a profound change in our lives, which includes our vocabularies. We've created new words, repurposed others, and begun speaking of certain normally quotidian (e.g. everyday) items with increased frequency -- and urgency. For this extra-credit assignment, discuss one of the ways in which our vocabulary has changed since we became aware of this disease. When did you first hear the word/term and what was your initial reaction? Then, try to analyze your contribution in terms of language and identity, perhaps citing some of the works we've been investigating. You may list a word or phrase that has become an integral part of our vocabulary in this new era and then discuss the importance of this term from a sociolinguistic standpoint. You also can add clips of videos (go to the "insrt tab) that relate to our current crisis but that also offer insight into our use of language at this time. Be sure to analyze the clip provided in terms of language and identity. If someone already has listed a phrase or term that you wished to discuss, then add your own thoughts below the original post. I have added a number of words on which you may wish to comment. Make sure to entitle your posts and to add your name to it for credit! If you participate, you will receive a "100" assignment grade, but if you participate multiple times and we develop something really worthy, then I may decide to up the ante! **Be sure to add your name so that you receive credit for your contribution!**

### **Dr. Behrman's sample: Gamechanger: The designation of COVID-19**

**COVID-19** -- I first heard the use of this term, the preferred scientific designation for the disease, around mid-February, several weeks after I became aware of the disease. Having traveled home to Atlanta through Hartsfield for a couple of days, I was already a bit wary. During my trip, I had provided directions to a couple from China who didn't understand English, speaking closely into their phone, which they were using as a translation device, several times! Additionally, I have a family member who is immuno-compromised (which is why I'm working remotely from VA). So, I had been reading the news and charting the spread of the disease carefully as it began to gain a foothold here.

Linguistically, COVID-19 is a fascinating term, a **portmanteau** (the splicing of words together to form a new word -- like "motel" -- motor hotel). Usually, portmanteaus combine two words. This one, though, is a combination of **three** -- corona (a foreign borrowing -- crown), virus, and id (itself an abbreviation for identification). "19" is, of course, the year in which the virus first reared its ugly head. "Coronavirus" has become a compound term as well.

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When I read about the new designation of COVID-19, I thought the term sounded like some arcane tax form concocted by the IRS. The metaphor, although very imperfect, does add some insight: IRS forms are notoriously difficult to comprehend and complete, and they cause great frustration and misery, especially in the spring. So too with this rampaging disease, which seems to be confounding scientists and which is spreading a much more serious type of suffering worldwide.

Finally, here is a link to WHO's (World Health Organization's) explanation of their naming of the disease: [WHO COVID-19](#). As you will see, COVID-19, while the name of the disease, isn't the name of the virus!

**Noha Siddiqui, [REDACTED] : Lockdown is not a punishment!**

"Lockdown" The news is almost always on in my house now that everyone is at home. One of the most common words I have seen on our TV screen since this outbreak is "lockdown." I first heard the word mentioned as a suggestion and my initial reaction was to disregard it because I did not expect the situation to worsen. The next time I heard it being used, it was more of an order than a suggestion. This time I took it more seriously. Lockdown by definition means a state of isolation or restricted access as a security measure. This lockdown is a security measure to protect those that are at risk to get the virus. Some people however, do not seem to understand the severity of the situation. They think that the government is trying to punish them rather than protect them. When I first saw the word lockdown being used by the government, I understood that the government really wants us to stay home and for good reason. I believe that if people knew the intensity of the word, they may understand the intensity of the stay at home order.

**Scott Murphy, [REDACTED],  
Has Life Change For Good?**

I first heard the Corona from my Grand Uncle because his son works for the CDC. It was sometime in January. The only thing he said is to wash your hands. Then the government called COVID-19 <https://dph.georgia.gov/what-covid-19> is sickness that affects the upper chest. Nobody truly said a word at my work until March. Come March a large outbreak which almost closes the country shut down is that I am moving out of state and I am looking for a place to live. Finding a hotel is that easy. People's voices are bad and most of them do not want to work with you. You are able to rent a room but there is no breakfast. All through this I am thinking to myself this will not be good. How can a person go from state to state because he needs to do it for work. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

A word that keeps on being heard is "lockdown" Yes, we all heard the word before but what is the true meaning? "a situation in which people are not allowed to enter or leave a building or area freely because of an emergency"

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/lockdown>

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That is the word that I truly heard. Within stores you hear “limits”, it is another word we heard but did we truly listen. Most of us no. Limit means the reduced quantity. These two words are very common to use now.

Lastly, I go to a doctor every other month for a check up and have a check up with my speech therapy once a month. Both of them are making my appointments over the webcam. It might become a new lifestyle.

### **Sanitary -- Travis LeBleu, [REDACTED],**

As everyone has seen from the last few months, there’s been quite a few precautions that have been added to society. One that caught my eye was at my place of work, new plexiglass screens have been propped up to create a barrier between the customer and cashier. That got me thinking, have we as a society been too unsanitary this entire time? Most people think of the word sanitary to just mean “clean”, but is the word changing to encompass “safety” due to COVID? Safety measures like these are supposed to be an increased sanitation measure, but they are also considered to be safety measures to quell the spread of the virus. This may seem like a trivial matter to talk about, but I found it to be very interesting because of the costly implications this definition change may have for the future of businesses. Many businesses in different services have health inspections to test the sanitation quality of the business. Would these safety precautions be included in inspections such as those?

### **Going Viral? (Dr. Behrman)**

Recently, the original meaning of the term viral has been supplanted by a new definition, one pertaining to our desire to disseminate clever turns of phrases via social-media sites. Everyone secretly hoped that a meme they created or one of their Insta posts would go “viral.” In the age of coronavirus, however, viral has returned to its original meaning, the spread of a contagion that no one hopes to catch!

**“The Worried Well” (Dr. Behrman)** -- this term represents a euphemism, a polite substitution for a negative term. Normally, we’d call such people hypochondriacs, but, given, the severity of the disease, its newness, and the very understandable fear it’s generating, “worried well,” an alliterative phrase, seems like the more generous designation.

### **Ellis Mills, [REDACTED],**

**“Social Distancing”** This is used on a daily basis as a guide on how we should be conducting ourselves. I had only previously heard this used regarding someone that was a loner and needed help. Now we hear this everyday in order to maintain a six foot separation from each other to prevent the spread on Covid-19. It’s very interesting that suddenly being a loner is

acceptable and encouraged behavior. While staying a safe distance from family and friends at this time we should all try and do something daily to maintain our sanity. It's definitely been a new experience to not be free to go to a restaurant or to simply go to the grocery store without the fear surrounding all of us right now. As long as we all continue to try and do our best in staying apart then we should all be able to come back together sooner.

**“#AloneTogether” (Dr. Behrman)**-- To build on Elis's post, this hashtag was created to help people remember the importance of social distancing. Ironically, the title, “Alone Together” is from a book about the adverse effects of social-media use! The author of *Alone Together*, Sherry Turkle, is a professor of psychology at MIT. In the text, she argues that we're lonelier than ever before due to our internet-infused lives. Her argument, I think, had just begun to take hold as evidenced by Facebook's unfortunately timed [“Kazoo” ad](#), which suggests that Facebook is used best as a conduit for face-to-face connections. Now, though, we're all forced to forge our connections online.

**Sara Howard, [REDACTED],: Response** Social distancing is now one of the most commonly heard phrases in the news now - along with 'telecommuting' and 'self quarantine.' As someone with asthma, I've had to be a lot more careful with this than others, and I think everyone's with me when I say I'm sick of hearing those terms. I do like the Alone Together movement mentioned above. The new context for the term is really important to me because the last dredges of my sanity are holding on thanks to group chats on large Discord servers. We even have Game Nights together! Is anyone else having experiences like this, where even though you're for all intents and purposes strangers, there's a sense of comfort and camaraderie anyway?

**Isabel Moller, [REDACTED], : Response** “Social distancing” is a great example! I had heard the term before the virus, but I now view the word and its meaning completely differently. Ellis, I totally agree that we all need to be doing our part in order to go back to normal living as soon as possible.

**Kailee Marral, [REDACTED], “Pandemic”** -- During this time of crisis, there has been complete chaos. COVID-19 has really taken the world by surprise and flipped it upside down. This pandemic, or outbreak, has had the biggest effect on not only our country, but the whole world, and I personally have never experienced something that impacted humanity in such a drastic way. Cities, states, and countries have shut down, schools and businesses have closed, hospitals are working relentlessly to help aid the infected patients and putting in hours of overtime to do their part, and overall, people are in a total panic, unsure of what will happen in the near future. Citizens have been quarantined in their houses to prevent any further spread of the virus and to ensure that everyone remains as safe and healthy as

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possible. This pandemic has definitely taken a toll on the world but with the cooperation of the people and the CDC, I believe we will get through this together.

Dr. Behrman's "Pandemic" fun fact -- this word is another *portmanteau*, a hybrid of "pan" (all) and epidemic.

**Samuel Brooke**, [REDACTED], "**Stay at Home**" -- There are differing opinions about the stay at home rule. Most follow the law and place their trust into the rules. I understand the people that question authority, I do the same. The problem is the amount of people questioning the experts. The stay at home law wasn't made for the average person. It was put in place to protect the high risk groups. The elderly and people with underlying health conditions are at very high risk to the virus. It's very disheartening to see these people still going out and living their normal life. They might not be at risk but they are putting other people at risk.

**"Contactless Delivery"** --

**"PPE"** --

**Leiko Niwano**, [REDACTED] "**Toilet Paper**" **The Toilet paper crisis of 2020**-- It's a warm Thursday night in the middle of March, right after COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the WHO. I ran to the local supermarket after class to pick up some supplies. Some packaged food remained, but the meat aisle had been laid bare and surprisingly, the toilet paper was completely gone. On social media, videos of brawls from the coveted toilet paper were on the front pages. Toilet Paper has become the symbol of the social and logistical effects of COVID-19. Hashtags such as #toiletpaperapocalypse have appeared on twitter documenting this. I think it shows how everything is connected and how one breakage in the system can cause a cascading failure as well as herd mentality in humans, which is amplified by social media.

PS -- Cottonelle has even created a hashtag about the crisis! -- [Cottonelle "Share A Square" Fundraiser](#)

**Caden Puzas "Clorox Wipes"** -- when first hearing of this pandemic of the full force spread of COVID-19 like any other american in this time, I decided to try and make one big grocery haul with all of my family members so we would all be able to branch out in teams to gather the materials that we would need for most likely, the next couple of months. As my family started to branch out in teams me and my brother had the list that was most important in this time of crisis. On our list, mostly consisted of the everyday necessities and products in which could help prevent the virus, so me and my brother tried to gather the first item on the list which was hand sanitizer. We browsed the aisle in which a staff employee had told us where to find the sanitizer

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but to our amazement the shelves had been wiped clean! So We decided to go to the next thing on the list, this time our mission was to scan the ahiles for cleaning supplies but yet again, there didn't seem to be a single cleaning supply item in sight. But on the edge of giving up and returning back to the family empty handed, My little brother happened to notice two canisters of scented clorox wipes. Without hesitation my brother ran to the end of the ahile on where he noticed the wipes and grabbed them as fast as he could and ran back to my cart clenching as tight he could to the two canisters as if we would never be able to see the cleaning product again. After this encounter at the grocery store I happened to find a new appreciation for the materials that we managed to pile into the back of the car, especially some of the only cleaning supplies that we managed to grab which consisted of some dish soap and two canisters of clorox wipe. Over the past weeks I have also found a new appreciation for the word "clorox wipes" as in this time who really knows when you will be able to see another pack of wipes or when you will be able to see a fully stocked shelf and be able to have options to pick from.

**"Co-Morbidity"** --

**"Ventilators"** --

**"N-95"** --

**Jordan Allen,** [REDACTED], **"Masks"** -- When I first heard about Covid-19, I didn't think much of it. That was until my mother called me in a panic about packing clothes to come home. This was of course before the school shut down and my mom is usually like that, so I really didn't pay it any mind. Then I got the email that the campus was shutting down for like a week or something. Then it started to hit me. I went with my friends to get some food to bring home, even though my mother had already done that. I got bins to pack as much stuff as I could. Then the email about moving out came and that's when I really started to get concerned.

Anyways, since I've been home, I've been on social media a lot. It's always the same topic though. "Who has Covid-19?", "What you should and shouldn't do.", "Materials you need to survive quarantine." And one of those materials is a face mask. At first it was "You don't need to wear the masks. Stop it." Then it changed to "You can catch the coronavirus through breathing the air of someone who has it." So everywhere you went, you saw these masks. People even started profiting off of it and making customized masks. My family is from New York so we've had a few deaths from the virus since it's really active(is that the word to use?) up there. So my mom got the masks for us. She went out the other day to get groceries and I texted her "Don't forget your mask!" and she sent a picture of her wearing it. This whole thing seems so unreal. I hope it ends soon.

**"Hand Sanitizer" (Dr. Behrman)** -- Here is a picture of the empty shelves, which once contained hand sanitizer, at the Harris Teeter in Charlottesville, VA on February 21:



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I had bought what turned out to be the last two bottles the week before just in case....

**“Acetaminophen” --**

**“Mitigation” --**

**“Plateau” --**

**“1917/1918” --**

**“Coronavirus” --**

**“#Boomer Remover” --**

**“Hoarding” --**

**“Flattening of the Curve” --**

**“Hydroxychloroquine” --**

**“Sewing” --**

**“Comfort” and “Mercy” --**

**Lizzy Abraham, [REDACTED] “Frontlines” --**

When I think of the term “frontlines” my first thought always went directly to war, and what frontlines meant in that context. In terms on corona virus, that world has taken a full 180 in the past few weeks. Now when I hear the term front lines I immediately picture the nurses and doctors at the “frontlines” of the virus, doing all they can to support these patients with the virus, or even grocery store workers, risking their health to keep our country fed.

An article by CNN gives incite on just what these frontlines are like in the world we live in today. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/27/us/inside-hospitals-coronavirus-vignettes/index.html> , this truly is an eye opener, as it shows that people out there are savings lives at the risks of their own, and it truly is comparable to the front lines of war. Just like soldiers, nurses, doctorcs, grocery store clerks, and workers in the food industry are putting themselves at risk to help their country.

**“Battle of the Mountaintop” Dr. Behrman --** Used by Governor Andrew Cuomo to describe the moment when the cases in NYC will reach their “apex.”



**Isabel Moller “Shelter in Place”** -- I had first heard of COVID-19 from my father in early February. He travels a lot so he was making sure to stay up to date. Fast forward to almost May, and the feelings I have towards the virus have changed completely. Rather than the “What if?” of the virus coming to the United States, specifically Georgia, that I was feeling, I began to feel the “What if?” of this causing things to change forever. This is a scary feeling and a scary thought, but when the “Shelter in Place” order was announced, it gave me a little more comfort when thinking about this virus. “Shelter in Place” means to seek safety in the building you are already in. I had never heard this phrase before, but it was not difficult to grasp its meaning. Although the meaning was clear to me, the feeling and the reasoning behind it is still hard for me to grasp. This virus has affected everyone’s day-to-day life. Personally, I was planning on moving out of state this summer, but with travel being a high risk, I am now moving next July. This virus is especially scary because of its multiple unknowns. For me, I am focusing all of my free time to better myself and make the most of this time with family. As long as we all do our part and continue to social distance, as well as only make essential trips, I have hope that we can beat this virus.

**Victoria Harris, [REDACTED], “Stay-at-Home Order”** -- As we all know, this Stay-at-Home-Order is something most of us have never experienced. When I first heard this term I thought it was a joke, I thought that maybe we could go visit other family and friends during this pandemic. Well, obviously I was wrong, COVID-19 is not a joking matter and everyone should take this virus very seriously. The fact that most people can only go to the grocery store or essential places unless you are an essential worker is crazy. Never in my lifetime would I’ve ever imagined staying home for this long, it’s been over a month and I haven’t gone anywhere. For example, my birthday is coming up this month and it will be the first time I have to celebrate it inside because one, there is nowhere to go and we have to practice social distancing so that we don’t catch COVID-19. As of now Georgia and other states are on a Stay-at-Home-Order until May 13th. Hopefully this order will be over before May but as of now everyone is ordered to stay inside their homes so that they can limit the spread of the coronavirus.

**“Plexiglass”** --

**Harrison Clark, [REDACTED], “Stay Safe”** -- The meaning behind stay safe has changed. Before the COVID-19 outbreak, stay safe was said to someone you cared about and meant “don’t do something stupid” or “watch your surroundings and what you do”. For example, my mom used to tell me this before I went out with friends. She wanted me to think about my actions and don’t do something stupid. Now when you hear “stay safe” you almost immediately think that the person is saying “stay healthy” or “don’t catch corona”. In fact, I work at Chick-Fil-A and a lady in the drive-thru thanked me for working and told me to stay safe. When she said that I immediately thought “don’t catch the virus”.

**“Testing” --**

**“PPP” -- “Paycheck Protection Program”**

**Conner Juras,** [REDACTED], - **“Epidemic”** -- Within the past few months, COVID-19, more commonly known as Coronavirus, has abruptly taken the world by storm and has drastically affected the lives of numerous families, workers, etc. Throughout the world, the “Coronavirus Epidemic” has become a term that has spread throughout homes and began to raise many emotions in people such as fear and helplessness. The term “Epidemic” to many has always carried some sort of negative connotation. Hearing it just stirs up memories of the past and remind us of how many lives were both lost and affected due to past outbreaks. Now that we are experiencing it first-hand, it’s quite astonishing to sit back and realize we are living in a time where we are dealing with something so severe; a time that, similarly to other outbreaks such as the Black Plague or the Spanish Flu, will without a doubt go down in history. As new information rises regarding the virus, I think that this ‘hysteria’ is only going to grow throughout our population. Thoughts of loneliness that comes with self-quarantine, hopelessness that comes with the wishing to get out of the house, or fear that comes without knowing if a ‘clear’ future is coming soon are just a few of the feelings that swim throughout the heads of, not just me, but of all those affected.

**Tariq Adams,** [REDACTED], **“Open the economy”** -- As residents of Georgia, we know that Governor Kemp is opening our state’s economy. I didn’t hear “open the economy” until about three or four days ago while listening to the news. We are now allowed to return to hair salons, barbershops, and even restaurants while at the same time having to reinforce “social distancing”. To my knowledge, there is no possible way to social distance in a barbershop or at a restaurant. As we continue to learn new facts about the virus and as the death toll continues to rise due to COVID-19, I believe it is important to put our health first throughout this pandemic. Although myself and other students are at less risk due to being younger members of society, it is important to stay safe as Georgia reopens. We must keep ourselves safe as well as our elders.

**“Telemedicine” --**

**“30 Days to Stop the Spread” --**

**“Herd Immunity” --**

**“Coronababies” --**

**“Coronaparties” --**

**“Vulnerable Populations” --**

**“CDC” --**

**“WHO” --**

**“Quaranteens” --**

**Kaleb Elder,** [REDACTED], **“Quarantine”** -- Pandemics are extremely scary to think about and I have only seen them in movies and video games, until the COVID-19 arose. I remember sitting on my basement couch doing my calculus homework when my dad came down and said something about the corona virus spreading fast and that we may need to be worried. As someone who thought this would not be bad, I just blew it off and thought nothing of it. That’s where I was wrong. The thought of having to ration supplies and make big hauls to the grocery store is extremely scary to me.

I have always heard of the word quarantine, but not in the sense that the word is used in today’s terms. Quarantine to me was just another term for staying somewhere for a short period of time. However, this whole coronavirus pandemic has really stretched the boundaries of that word. Quarantine in the simplest form means to impose isolation on. It is so crazy to me that we have been in quarantine for a number of months at this point and we still have no idea how many more months this could go on. I have never had to use the word quarantine before the pandemic, and it has completely changed my everyday vocabulary. I am using words that I was scared to use before, such as pandemic, quarantine, and isolation. We haven’t even seen the worst of the coronavirus, which makes me extremely nervous. But the virus has made me use words I never thought I would have to use.

**“#istayhomefor....” Dr. Behrman** -- A popular hashtag coined by Kevin Bacon of *Six Degrees of Separation Fame*. People used to play a game called “Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon,” where they’d try to see if they could get to a Kevin Bacon movie in six tries. Bacon recognized the analogous situation with potential infection and created this hashtag in an effort to keep people apart.

**Catalina Funk,** [REDACTED], **- Social Distancing**

Coronavirus, or COVID-19, has completely changed our lives. Everyone in the world is experiencing the effects of this pandemic. From this, a term many of us have never heard, has been coined - social distancing. What is social distancing? It’s one of the biggest, if not the biggest contribution our world is making to flatten the curve of Coronavirus. “Social Distancing” refers to the 6 ft rule, the stay-at-home orders, and the closing of non essential business.

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Especially in public, people are staying at least 6 feet apart from each other. Nearly every open business in the U.S. has tape 6 feet apart marking where customers should stand. Lines in Walgreens, grocery stores, and military bases throughout the world have been following this precaution. Social distancing also refers to quarantine. Quarantine is something very little, if any of us have ever experienced. This means to only be around your family or ones you live with. Some people have started quarantining together. Every time you hang out with someone outside of your quarantine circle you risk your chance of contracting COVID-19. Stay-at-home orders are now in affect in many states and countries as a precaution to flatten the curve, something that is very similar to social distancing. Before this pandemic, these words were barely if ever used. Coronavirus has now changed the way we talk, the way we interact with others, and the amount we leave our houses or see others. This virus will be remembered in history for the great changes it had on society around the world.

**Drake Burton, [REDACTED], - N-95**

"N - 95" - When first I heard N-95... I wasn't sure what the newscaster was talking about on CNN.. Was this a new plane we were sending to get to the bottom of where Covid-19 came from? I soon realized that it wasn't code for some new drug that the government was working one either. It was the mask that could TRULY protect us from the dreaded Covid-19. This mask has been the saving grace for those healthcare professionals that have it, and a point of discontent of those that don't have them, or enough of them. This product that none of us knew even existed has become the most important part of the fight against coronavirus or Covid-19, with imitations of it fetching upwards of \$40 a piece online. In fact, 3M, the company that produces them, was reprimanded by the president and forced under the Defense Production Act to produce \$133 million worth of masks to help stop the spread of Covid-19. This product is at the center of the fight against this deadly disease and is forever ingrained in our memories. N95 masks are the weapons we are using to fight this war.

**“Quaranteaming”**

**“Cancelled”- Anna Whitley, [REDACTED],**

I don't think I have ever heard this word more in my life. Throughout this pandemic all I have heard on the tv and seen online was talk about cancellations, school cancelled, graduation cancelled, church cancelled, prom cancelled, sports cancelled, Broadway cancelled, olympics cancelled, air travel cancelled, vacations cancelled, and the list could go on. In this time of uncertainty or language has shifted greatly. Certain words that have always been a part of our language now have a different impact on us. Cancelled has been on everyone's lips throughout the past month. It is interesting to see how much our world does, and we don't realize how much we do until it is cancelled. We do not know how much we take things for granted until it is

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cancelled. But what is also interesting, is that through cancellations, our identities have shifted. Some have shifted for the worse, but most have shifted for the good. For example, because sports was cancelled, thousands of people have created videos to honor the first pitch of the season, just in their backyard. Also, due to proms being cancelled around the country, John Krasinski made a virtual prom for thousands of sad seniors and got celebrities to perform live online for those who missed their prom. Cancellation has been a huge part of our lives for the past month, too many to even count at this point, but this can develop greater identities in us than we could ever imagine.

**Virtual/Online - Calandra Washington, [REDACTED],**

I hear or see these words about 10 times a day. The world was already being consumed by technology. For example, kids being on their phones all the time or watching tv 24/7. Now to have school all online is just crazy. Everything is virtual now. Classes can be viewed on Zoom which is like a video chat. Even my parents just joined a town meeting my city was having on Zoom. Some schools are thinking about having graduation virtual and even prom. I never thought that something like this would ever come to reality. To see so much stuff being virtual and online is just mind blowing. I just hope we will be able to come back from this crisis and not be dependent on technology like we are now.

**Kennedy China, [REDACTED], \*Stay-at-Home Order\***

During this pandemic a Stay-at-Home Order was given and it affected the world in many ways. There were many pros and cons listed while being under the Stay-at-Home Order. Personally I never experienced anything like this before during my 19 years here on earth. When the Stay-at-Home Order was issued I didn't really have a clue what it meant and by me not knowing I was very unaware of what I was supposed to do. I read different articles and all of them seemed to be different. When COVID-19 began blowing up tremendously I started taking it seriously. I learned that I couldn't visit family or friends like I wanted to because we were living in a pandemic. Learning facts about COVID-19 and the Stay-at-Home Order taught me things that were never mentioned to me before so that I could be prepared. This is the first time I've just sat in the house every day not doing anything and it has been very hard. Quarantining isn't fun at all but it's safer for me and my family. Everyone needs to take this seriously because it is very much happening. I pray every night that God will protect me, my family, and my friends. This Stay-at-Home Order is a really great idea because it is made to keep people inside so that they don't catch the virus. I pray all of this is over soon so that people will stop living in fear.

**Gerard Warren, [REDACTED],  
“Shut Down”**

Throughout this entire Coronavirus pandemic, I have been hearing the “shut down” term at least 500 times a week. As serious as the virus is, I feel that non-essential businesses and events should close and remain closed until the numbers begin to decrease. Just last week, Governor Brian Kemp declared that the state would reopen businesses such as barbershops, nail salons, malls, bowling alleys and gyms to get the economy back rolling, which is absurd in my opinion. At this point, allowing people into these places seems too soon and could trigger a second wave that could likely be even worse, especially with people still dying and becoming immune to it. For a second, I really believed that he was going to do an aggressive statewide lockdown but apparently it was never on his agenda. Hopefully this “shut down” will remain in place until we know when it is safe to return back to our regular lives that we all miss.



Avery Vetter, [REDACTED], "Virus Affects Friend-group Lingo"

The coronavirus pandemic has drastically affected the way that people live and go about their everyday lives. Since Covid-19 has placed us in a stay at home quarantine order, our human interaction has drastically dropped. I believe that when individuals hang around people that they click with and like often, they tend to pick up on what is called their "slang". People in friend groups have their own inside jokes and tend to talk in the same phrases due to the amount of time spent together. Now that the coronavirus has forced us to stop hanging out with our friends as often or even at all, our speech and communication is going to be drastically different. The more tv that is watched during this time, the more forms of speech that are going to get picked up and

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eventually change the way that the watcher talks. Once meeting back up with friends after this pandemic is over, groups are going to have different patterns of speech and have to learn to adapt with each other again. Therefore, the Coronavirus in my opinion is going to in some way or another, impact everyone's speech and communication skills.