

It has already been 9 months since the pandemic and quite ironically, I still have no idea how to process all this. Much of an influential take it has upon our lives I initially found solace in the pause life had taken. Quarantine began early summer; our usual life of hustle and bustle had become a vague retrospect. The convenience of being a lay about ended in the third week of quarantine. Influencers on YouTube and Instagram started to define this period as the utmost productive one. Like the predictable teenager, I let that get me. Online classes had just begun in April and I felt this bulletproof sense of purpose usually reserved for superheroes. I wanted to be super productive and honestly, I was quite exhausted by the end of the day. So, as you can tell my phone became a daily routine and sometimes I every so often catch myself in thoughts about how I must have been a bad child or a bad friend. Or thinking about whether my future is secure or not? Will I be successful if I am weak in this subject? Though I would like to emphasize the fact about how grateful I am to be living safely with my family. And that my heartfelt prayers to those who have been badly affected by this pandemic. This COVID-19 phase taught me a lot too. I reconnected with my family without having to check my to-do list if I have another project to complete before I get a chance to even meet my dog. I am an introvert so quite frankly the confinement part of quarantine was like just another day. Fast forward a few clusters of months now, influencers kept reminding people to take a break and rest and stuff. My lazy self was very happy with that validation. Guilt-free summer days went by with me wasting time and moderately depressed by the fact that I HAVE SIX PROJECTS AND NINE ASSIGNMENTS TO DO. I would wear my earphone and listen to music, then when I took it off the music stopped and silence filled the room; a sense of guilt, resentment to myself, competitive peers and my studies and- I felt lost. At a time like that, I take out my book and jot down a to-do list. Cliché but then I felt as if my life was slightly more organised. I had recently joined a new school and didn't quite establish my friend group yet. In quarantine, it was so much harder to make good friends by text. One great thing about this pandemic was that I learned home workouts and I found passion in exercising. With such disarray in the world, I liked to preoccupy myself with homework, music and exercising. This pandemic brought a lot of thoughts to think about. The past and the future become distant each day. This pandemic has made me realise that life goes on. Life is hard and messy and we won't get it easier anytime soon but, all we can do is be content with what we have. Now I understand that change is inevitable and doing what I love, being with people that make me feel alive and giving my best at whatever I do, is all I can do for now. It is all we can do for the future. I'll end with the note, life goes on, let's live on.