Gonzalo Lopez

Podcast Transcript

**Intro**

Gonzalo:

All right, so this is going to be my, you know, history project, aka the podcast, you know, talking about a topic or selecting a topic concerning our specific year, you know, class of 2024 and something big that's happened because we've been through many things and how it's affected us. For me, I chose, I'm going to have my topic be COVID and like the quarantine year because that's something that impacted me the most. And it's something that I don't know, I don't know, I don't know if I'll be able to like look into the future and never forget about it. Or it'll be something where I'm just like, oh, yeah, it happened. And when like in the left, and I like it was something that affected me on a personal scale and affected others I know on a personal scale. I don't know it just like it cut deep, and it was over the process of time.

**Background**

Gonzalo:

Starting off I don't know I'm gonna go way back you know way back in eighth grade 2019 or 2020 early 2020 very early like January February. I would say this is the time where I was looking at articles and stuff saying there were outbreaks in certain countries, but this was all in Europe, across the overseas, so I didn't think much of it. Then it started to increase. Going into other countries, spreading around quickly so then everybody you know kind of panicked. At first the only news we got was that we were going to have a spring break and then, so it all occurred around the time of that spring break time so we you know we're going on spring break we said bye to everybody and then we all went home thinking nothing of it. Come like a week or two later, spring break is supposed to end, but then we get notified that it's gonna be extended another two weeks, you know, just to like, till the whole thing blows over, or so we thought. And then at this point we were like, we were celebrating, you know, us as kids not wanting to go to school. We're celebrating because we didn't think it was gonna be something that's caused much change to us and what we were doing.

**Personal Experience**

Gonzalo:

And then eventually, you know, we were told that that was it for the year and we weren't going to go back. And this is a time where, you know, we were all getting on to Zoom, trying to like figure out something so we could still get our quarantine. And I would say before I would like be very motivated and then when quarantine hit I was like I was taking a bunch of time to myself, relaxing, enjoying myself, and you know trying not to think of school because no eighth grader wants to think about school you know, after summer and we're all notified that we won't be able to come in person for our freshman year. And I was kind of bummed about this because, you know, it's our freshman year and it's an exciting moment for everybody. I would be able to see a bunch of new people, see old friends, be in a whole different environment, get more challenging classes, but I didn't get to do any of that. Or, more or less, you could say I did get to do some of it, but it wasn't how I thought it would be. Instead of, you know, walking through the hall, saying hi to new people, seeing new faces, I was behind a screen, you know, in my bed, laying down with my camera off, you know, not talking to anybody, the whole class being silent on call, and most of the time just the teacher talking. This I don't know I guess over the time at the beginning it was fine because you know we didn't do much. We were getting small assignments here and there. It wasn't too bad. But then over the year I you know I don't know I started to change because I was realizing how you know how boring it was how much I like wanted to go out wanted to be with people and I couldn't really do any of that because of the lockdown and stuff and I Don't know Further on it kind of impacted me more deeply.

**Interview 1**

(Gonzalo)

But before I get into that I did talk to some few other people I have Marley and Sharyah asking them both questions, you know, because I wanted to make sure I wasn't the only one who was impacted negatively by, you know, quarantining. And, um, and as it, as a result, I found out that, yeah, we all shared similar experiences, like get a feeling down, you know, being surprised, having that initial shock and excitement, and then it is turning into a sense of like melancholy and sadness between all of us. So first on the list, we have Marlee, and I will play that clip for you now.

(Gonzalo)

Okay, so how did you process the realization that you weren't going to go back to school, or you had to stay in lockdown for the duration of quarantine?

(Marlee)

I remember I was at somebody's house. I found out I had literally jumped the gun celebrating. But it wasn't until I got opportunities taken away from me that I could sit in front of a camera. So that if this was something I was really going to do personally, it was back in my place. I don't know exactly how I processed it, it just kind of hit me in the face.

(Gonzalo)

I can relate with this because me and Marley did go to the same school, so we have the same experiences initially but then over time we see that her health, it's kind of sad. And I feel like I had a really similar experience to all that.

**Interview 2**

(Gonzalo)

And not only that, but also, we have Shariah here. And I'll play that clip for you now, interviewing Shariah. Now I'm here with Sharyah. And during the duration of COVID, how did the lockdown and quarantine affect your mental state?

(Sharyah)

I remember being in the house and like being down because I didn't like interact with people a lot. Mind you, it was my first year of high school, so like I was kind of expected to like meet new friends and make new friends for my future. So I was like a little sad because of the whole feeling like locked in my room and just doing homework on a screen.

(Gonzalo)

And going back even a little further, how did the sudden cut off of seeing your classmates from middle school affect how you went on with your life?

(Sharyah)

I remember at first when all this happened, it was during March. And I just remember, oh, yeah, we're out of school. We don't got to go to school. But then it started to get more and more serious. And then that's when it became a big like boom, like wow, like we got to stay in the house and we can't do anything.

(Gonzalo)

Thank you.

**Discussion/Personal Experience**

(Gonzalo)

All right, and from this, we see you know, we see that shock and the excitement and you know, that realization and it all kind of, everybody I've talked to has similar experiences, you know, we're all initially excited and then it just goes downhill from there. We get start to, we start to miss our friends, we start to miss you know going outside seeing other people and everything. It's kind of, it's kind of gloomy. For me personally, I got really bummed out you know. I couldn't, I wasn't in a space where I could focus during school. It was harder for me to learn. I didn't really get to hang out with friends as I wanted to and, you know, I got to miss out on a bunch of experiences that I would have wished to have had and I feel like would have been really fun. We did get a little bit of a relief from this though because during that freshman year, there was a day where we had to go into the school for testing. And even though it was a testing day, I felt like it was a really good day because we got to go out to eat with our friends and everybody. It was nice seeing everybody at the table again. We were all really friendly. Everybody was excited to see each other. And it was just like, it was something that brightened the whole environment around me and left an impact on my mind because it was something that I hadn't received in a little bit and I don't know it was just something that I really liked but then it was kind of you know it was back to online for the rest of the year and I felt like I didn't have much to you know I didn't have much to do. It was hard for me to learn. I couldn't drive myself out of my bed in the morning. And overall, it just negatively impacted my health, physically and emotionally. And I feel like this is something that people just kind of look past. I don't know. I'm not the only one who feels this way. I've talked to numerous amounts of friends and they've all had similar or really close experiences. And I do feel like this is one of those events where everybody was affected, everybody in our school year, not just our class, but also around the world because it was a worldwide pandemic. And it's just one of those things where it's like a period of time where everything feels fuzzy and it's hard to think back and like try and remember, try and reciprocate all those feelings that we had and try and remember what we were feeling and what we were doing without getting like, you know, sad or feeling like we missed out on something that most people got to experience. But I do feel like we got to grow a little bit from it because if not for that, we wouldn't have, you know, come closer coming back to school. We wouldn't have reached out online to other people and created small communities, none of that would have happened. So I'm glad we got some good from it.

**Conclusion/Reflection**

(Gonzalo)

And yeah, there's not really much for me to say other than that was a very impactful year on my health and I learned a lot from it. Being with myself, I got to learn a lot for myself. And it's just something that I don't know that I'm gonna think about for the rest of my life and I'll just always have it in the back of my mind. So, you know, to wrap things up, it was a crazy year. It was actually a crazy year. I really don't want to experience it again, but, you know, things happen. It was unexpected. So, what can you do? Alright, so that's pretty much it. That's all I have for you today. So have a good day. So have a good day.