

# Learning & Living in the Time of Coronavirus

Project Introduction and Sample Lesson Plan

## Link to Project Website

<https://studio.colostate.edu/coronastories/>

## Introduction

Students everywhere are working their way through school closures, the conversion of their face-to-face classrooms to online instruction, and upheaval in their personal lives. We started the Coronavirus Stories Archive as a way to collect and archive stories about this important time. For your students, sharing their experiences—anonously or otherwise—can be a great way to help them process what they are living through and add to a resource that can help all of us understand how, as a community, we reacted, adapted, and came through the pandemic.

In this document, you'll find a reflective writing lesson plan to scaffold student contributions to this archive. If you would like to contribute to this resource, please email Lindsey Harding at [lharding@uga.edu](mailto:lharding@uga.edu).

Sincerely,

Teaching & Learning in the Time of Coronavirus  
John Scenters-Zapico, Lindsey Harding, Mike Palmquist, & Karen Peirce  
The WAC Clearinghouse

# Table of Contents

[Link to Project Website](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

[Sample Lesson Plan](#)

[Learning Objectives](#)

[Motivational Set \[to kick-start the lesson\]](#)

[Activity Steps \[to facilitate learning\]](#)

[Closure \[to wrap up the lesson\]](#)

[Materials and Notes \[what you need to execute the lesson and tips for success\]:](#)

[Appendix](#)

[Story Template](#)

# Sample Lesson Plan

## Learning Objectives

Students will. . .

1. describe their personal experiences living and learning during the Coronavirus pandemic.
2. compare their current experiences to their lives prior to the pandemic.
3. evaluate the changes they are facing in their educational experiences and personal lives and how they are dealing with these changes (i.e., emotionally, physically, mentally, socially, etc.).

## Motivational Set [to kick-start the lesson]

Ideas:

1. Five minute free-write about the changes in your life now. Set a timer (like this [one](#)).
2. Sit down with a family member (and a cookie!) and talk about how your lives have changed.
3. Anything to get students to start to think reflectively about their lives now.

## Activity Steps [to facilitate learning]

The learners will. . .

1. Fill out the following Prewriting Tables to compile notes about their experiences to compare their lives before and after the pandemic.

<b>Category:</b>	<b>BEFORE</b>	<b>AFTER</b>
Home		
School		
Exercise		
Meals		
Friends		
Family		
Other:		
Other:		

Other:		
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- Then, let's zoom in on current experiences and how we are handling all of these changes:

	<b>How are you dealing with these changes?</b>
Emotionally (How do you feel?)	
Mentally (What do you think?)	
Physically (How does your body feel?)	
Socially (Who are you interacting with?)	
Spiritually?	

- Now, it's time to draft your story. Using the above tables, write your story. Use the prompts below to guide you.

What has been the extent of changes in your area? In your home? For your family?  
 How has the pandemic affected your schoolwork? Your day-to-day life?  
 How have you dealt with all of these changes?  
 How do you feel about all of these changes? How do you feel about your life now?

- Come up with a title and keywords for your story.

Keywords should highlight themes or topics that stand out. These will be useful to help readers find your story in the archive.

- If possible, review your draft (with a peer online, with a parent/roommate/friend).
- Revise based on feedback you receive from your peer review.
- Proofread and edit to polish your writing.

8. Reflect on the writing experience: What was it like for you to tell your story? Reflect on the process of writing it down and sharing it with others.
9. Submit your story online at <https://studio.colostate.edu/coronastories/>. Fill out Page 1 of the form to provide some background information about you. Then, on Page 2, you can either upload your story or copy and paste it into the box provided.

### Closure [to wrap up the lesson]

Check out other stories in the archive. Read a teacher's story. Read another student's story. How are their experiences similar and/or different from your own?

### Materials and Notes [what you need to execute the lesson and tips for success]:

- Link to the Coronavirus Stories Archive: <https://studio.colostate.edu/coronastories/>
- Students will need to be able to **type** their stories.
- Then, they will need **internet access** to submit their story to the archive.
- If you have an online learning platform, you can set-up peer review on a discussion board. Or, you could conduct peer review in Google Drive.
- You could also have students submit some or all of the following process-related work:
  - Initial freewrite
  - Prewriting Tables
  - Reflection on the writing process
  - Response to reading other stories (Closure activity)

And, teachers, we invite you to submit your own story, as well!

<https://studio.colostate.edu/coronastories/add1.cfm>

# Appendix

## Story Template

### Title—

Come up with a title for your story.

### Your Story: What are your experiences living and learning in the time of coronavirus?—

You might consider the following questions as you write and reflect on your story.

- What has been the extent of changes in your area? In your home? For your family?
- How has the pandemic affected your schoolwork? Your day-to-day life?
- How have you dealt with all of these changes?
- How do you feel about all of these changes? How do you feel about your life now?

### Keywords—

What key words can you identify from your story? What main topics stand out to you? These might help others find your story:

### Final Reflection—

What was it like for you to tell your story? Reflect on the process of writing it down and sharing it with others.

Submit Here—<https://studio.colostate.edu/coronastories/>