

Serhii Andrushko

Dear diary

Today marks another day in this confusing labyrinth that has become my life during this quarantine. As I sit here, trying to make sense of it all, I feel the weight of uncertainty pressing down on me. The world feels like it's spinning out of control, and I'm trapped in this small town, disconnected from the life I once knew. Everything seems like a mess. On top of that, the whole situation outside is unstable, and the news makes it all even more confusing.

Studying online has been the epitome of chaos. The transition to virtual classes has been shocking, to say the least. I miss the interaction with classmates and the ability to approach a teacher after a lecture for clarification. Instead, I'm confined within the walls of my home, trying to absorb lectures through a screen while battling distractions that seem to multiply by the minute. At home, with family buzzing around, concentrating on classes is impossible.

Living in a town of 8.000 people feels both comforting and isolating. Although a few childhood friends are around, we must maintain distance, especially considering my old grandmother's fragile health. I must be very careful and take all the safety measures to take care of her health first. It turns my world into a small bubble, almost completely detached from the outside.

I miss hanging out with my classmates and other students. No socializing, no real student life. It isn't as fun to watch funny videos on the internet about student life because I don't have one. Chernivtsi, where I am studying, is the first city in Ukraine where an outbreak of coronavirus was recorded, so it is not surprising that we are the first to go into quarantine...

I feel as if I am losing my student years not only as a young man who wants adventure and new friends, but also as a student who wants to study. Online learning isn't a piece of cake either. Everything is chaotic, no one knows exactly how long it would last and how to adapt to it. At home, with family around, staying focused during classes is a real challenge. I found myself stuck in a whirlwind of online classes that were far from ideal. The educational system's attempt at online teaching often feels like a mismatched puzzle, with teachers struggling to bridge the gap between traditional methods and this new virtual reality. Some teachers think just throwing tons of textbook pages online is good enough, ignoring the essence of real classroom engagement. It makes me wonder if it'd even help in my future career.

I feel like I'm losing out big time, both in my personal life and in my studies. These were supposed to be the years of awesome growth, trying new things, and figuring out my future. But here I am, kinda lost at sea, just trying to get through this crazy time without knowing when it'll all end.

Yours, Serhii

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