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English Composition I (ENG 100)
Professor Mangini
Formal Assignment #3: Research Project, Draft #1
Due Date: 11:59pm on Monday 11.

June 4th Or Not

I am an essential worker. I still get to earn money on a steady basis and pay my bills comfortably but I have plenty of family and friends that aren't able to. Pennsylvania is currently in the red phase which means everything except essential businesses are closed and we must remain in our homes. Once the new stay-at-order extension deadline of June 4th approaches, Governor Wolf should apply the next realistic phase which is the Yellow Phase. The yellow phase is reported to allow retail businesses, gyms, and personal care services to re-open ([Source](#)). Opening up the state, even if not at full capacity such as the green phase, will put us in the right direction towards returning to a livable life. Most of my peers work in retail and they cannot afford to go jobless until the end of the year or more. They have hefty bills to pay and kids to feed. As long as we follow proper guidelines, we will make the right steps to improve. In my opinion, since the beginning of the shutdown in March, citizens have improved on practicing social distancing and quarantining. As someone that works in a grocery store, we keep count of every customer that comes to make sure we do not overload to customer capacity. We also have markings on the ground that suggest how we should space ourselves from each other. Masks are even provided by us if you are in need.

In addition to citizens returning to their jobs if the state re-opened, students would be able to return to school. Homeschooling is not for everyone. A survey showed that most students prefer in person teaching and the number is much lower for those that prefer just online, ([Souce](#)). As for kids, they are missing crucial experiences in their life by not being in school. Sure they are probably having the best time of their lives while not being in school but I'm sure that when it

comes to their education, most parents would rather have them in the school setting. Yes, parents are doing what they're supposed to be doing but there is so much money they could be making right now to support themselves. As a college student that strongly prefers in person teaching rather than online, this new school setup has been something I've had to adapt to. I've been doing fine but I can't speak for every student. There will unfortunately be those that will struggle because of this sudden change. In an article regarding the status of education, Mathematica researcher Steve Malik said, "What's clear is that real-time engagement with teachers is necessary, and students doing online courses on their own do not typically produce positive results. ([Source](#))" I especially think we should reopen soon for the students that rely on in person classes such as music and art. If we can practice social distancing in supermarkets then we can do the same in classrooms.

Quarantining can have a negative effect on our mental and physical health if we don't take care of ourselves. The current red phase mandates us to stay in our homes unless for a need to leave. I've learned from my peers that all of the quarantining we're doing has already taken a toll on them. Some haven't kept on up their daily gym routines since they are closed and some have been so bored that they are close to losing their minds. As crazy as it might sound during this pandemic, some people need to be outside doing social things. Just think about if we went into 2021 still in the red phase, I can see theft and crime rising because of people losing their minds. People themselves are better when we aren't "forced" to be in one place. Knowing that we could be stopped by the police for being in a group is crazy to me but I get it, they don't want us to get sick or to contaminate. But how long can we go about it this way before everyone gives up? With the yellow phase that states gatherings over 25 people as permissive and if Governor Wolf approved it, I believe a lot of people would be less stressed about their social life and would have a better idea of how to handle their mental health. I now see daily that more

people are on social media to try and make up for the lack of physical meetings but I don't see it lasting much longer. Too much social media is bad for our minds anyway so combining that with being quarantined for a long duration is a setup for disaster.

Lastly, I believe it will impact our economy greatly if we don't open because another recession will then become inevitable. The Great Recession that began back in December of 2007 lasted until January 2009. If we go into another one at a similar length, the country will go even more into debt and citizens will lose even more jobs and opportunities. Politicians are already battling over another stimulus package because of the risk of going into debt so can you imagine how it would be in 2020 if we were to hit bottom again. In addition, taxes and gas prices will most likely rise in the result of a new recession. In the world of education and what this means for current and future college students, it could mean we may have to change our majors just to survive in the economy. We have the power and sense to control this virus whether you believe it or not. What I hope is understood after viewing my point of view is that there are a lot of lives at stake during this pandemic. Small businesses are shutting down, people are injecting bleach into themselves thinking it will be the cure of corona, and it's time for us to start the recovering process. This will take time but reopening after June 4th, in my opinion, has the country's best interest.