

Making History

Historians learn about the past through primary sources – the firsthand experiences of people living at these important times in history.

Your observations now can be the primary sources for future historians! We live in a digital age and can communicate and connect to each other in ways that are so different than people in our past. We communicate differently in some ways, but people have been writing journals for thousands of years!

This is a unique opportunity to journal the changes you observe in your local community, the country, and around the world in response to COVID-19. On a daily or weekly basis, take note of what you are seeing and hearing on the news, among your friends, family, neighbors, and throughout the community. Feel free to write your observations, record video or audio, poetry, drawings, collages, or use other means of expression as you document your experiences.

Guiding Questions:

- How has your life changed? How have you adapted your normal routines?
- What are you doing to keep yourself busy? Are you learning new skills or hobbies, or returning to activities you haven't done in a few years?
- Have you reconnected with family and friends—digitally or by phone—that you haven't spoken with since before this pandemic started?
- Are you working from home with family members, roommates, or children you don't normally see during the day?
- Are you “at school” and learning from home? How do you communicate with teachers and friends?
- Are you, someone in your family, or someone you know considered an “essential” employee? What restrictions or adaptations are in place? What are your concerns about leaving home? Do you/they interact with the public?
- What did the government announce/declare/implement today? Do you agree or disagree with what was said? Does it impact your life personally?
- What is open in your neighborhood? What is closed?
- How is today different from yesterday? Are you having trouble differentiating between what happened yesterday or a few days ago? Is it difficult to keep track of the days of the week?
- Did you see anything today that gave you hope? Anxiety? Fear? (In person, in the news, or on social media?) Did something make you laugh? (Feel free to include any memes you've seen!)
- What does your family need today that you might not have, not have enough of, or not have access to acquire?
- Do you see any examples of racism, privilege, and/or income inequality in any of the events that happened today? (Locally, at the state level, nationally, or in the world?)

More Assignments, directions in other languages, modifications for students with disabilities, students in different grade levels, etc.: <https://tinyurl.com/covid-journal-all>

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The Harwich Historical Society would like to collect these journals and stories for compilation in an archive for future historians.