

Professor Wymer

English 101-RCA 021-11:00 AM

14 April 2021

Portfolio Essay

When I began applying to colleges in my senior year of high school, I never expected to be going to school online. However, I have to say, it wasn't a completely new experience for me. Before the pandemic, I was taking most of my classes online due to them not being accessible in my schools' curriculum. Although I had never met the teachers, I had already gotten a taste of online learning. Then, once schools shut down around March 2020, I had to go full zoom for the rest of my senior year of high school and freshman year of college. It was hard at first. I had initially applied and got accepted to many colleges in the states but had to go with UVI as a last-minute option. The pandemic hit a lot of families' pockets hard and made it difficult for me to ask my parents to help with whatever the scholarships weren't covering. I decided to go with UVI because it's close to home and offers a free tuition program. In the beginning, I was hesitant about going into a completely different environment virtually. I thought it would make building relationships a little bit more difficult. I wasn't worried about the work because, through high school, I was used to interpreting the work given without any explanation and completing it to satisfaction.

While many discuss the idea of hybrid or on the ground learning, I have to say that I completely prefer online classes over in-person. I love being able to log on, talk with teachers, complete assignments, and go on with my day. Living on St. John, the commute would have been difficult and slightly pointless due to my 1-2 classes a day schedule. I can't

see myself enjoying on the ground learning anymore. I feel way more efficient working from home. I haven't experienced many limitations work-wise. If I ever ran into a problem, I knew to just text a classmate or to email a professor to get the answer to my question. Overall, online learning has been quite beneficial to me in the sense that it allows me to have the opportunity to go to school whilst still being able to enjoy my idle time with family and friends. I think that the only thing that I look forward to in future classes, on the ground, virtual, or hybrid, would be that the workload is better aligned with the intent of the class. Besides that, I am optimistic for my future at UVI with any setbacks that may arise from the pandemic.