

Essay by Ethany Bresnahan

Covid-19: A Metamorphosis (Ft. Catastrophes)

The past year without a doubt has been unhinged, chaotic and overwhelmingly concerning. In the perspective of a teenager with little grasp of what's going on all the time, it can be scary. Holding in breaths before turning on the news, staying six feet apart from everyone you see outside your house; online school, riots, the presidential election, people in my space without masks on, and Covid-19. Although it was strenuous with all that had gone wrong, should we help but think of this as a metamorphosis? A catastrophe sounds more acceptable. However, life is inevitable to change. Science is always providing evidence of transition and mutations, but is it right to think that these stages are improving? Is this comparable to progress in the past?

Science is a profound tool and understanding that many people take for granted. It is amazing how fast Scientist and healthcare professionals have sprung into action. They are the backbone of society right now. As soon as word spread about Covid-19 science has helped us better understand the complexities of this strenuous era. However, looking back in history it's clear that viruses have caused pandemics before. Take the 'Spanish' flu or Influenza for example: in the midst of World War one, the United States found themselves in a quandary. Soon a pandemic set in for what we now know as the common flu. Nevertheless, there were still millions of deaths worldwide, people were told to wear masks in public; there were even multiple waves or spikes in cases, and not to mention they were still in the middle of a war.

The idea is that this is not the first time we've encountered new viruses. Smallpox and Rinderpest are both good examples of serious diseases that are eradicated. Smallpox killed between 300-500 million people. Yes, these diseases and viruses are tragic but are crucial for us to remember not to mistrust science. In all these occurrences it took more than just the medical and science state of affairs. It took economic and political change too. This metamorphosis isn't going to be beautiful like that of a butterfly but rather a transfiguration of societal norms for a beneficial outcome. We have so many new technologies today that are constantly improving and use those to our advantage.

Covid-19 is a crisis that shouldn't be downplayed, but it is also important to know that our technologies are opening up new opportunities. Vaccines are available now from mRNA and are 95% effective. This is a new hope and massive progress from the neverending downward spiral that was happening in 2020. Vaccines open up for 16 year olds on March 29th and many

are feeling confident that things will shift to be better. The process is messy but change is necessary. This is a metamorphosis by definition and presentation.