

West Chester University
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Assignment: Creative Coronarchive

Archive: “A collection of historical documents or records providing information about a place, institution, or group of people.” - *Oxford English Dictionary*

We are living through an unprecedented situation. The news is evolving at a pace we almost cannot track and misinformation seems to spread even faster. Following heart-breaking stories of illness and death have been incredible moments of kindness and humor. All of this has had global and personal impacts. For this assignment, collect and/or create documents or records of the COVID-19 pandemic and your experience of it.

Your collection can be **physical or digital**.

You can focus on **one** type of item, theme, or concept, or a **variety**.

For example, a colleague teaching a course called Humor in Writing class has students collecting examples of gallows humor. Another writing course is collecting memes about social distancing.

Collect/Create as **many entries as you want**.

Write a brief explanation of what you chose, why, and if you created and/or collected the entries.

A few prompts to get you writing: How did the entries represent your experience of the pandemic? Did they cause you to learn? Cope? Fear? Understand? Identify? Laugh? Connect? Did this evolve or stay the same during the pandemic? How would you explain this collection to someone else? To yourself in the future?

For inspiration, some **similar ideas include**:

A photographer is taking photos of families in her neighborhood, while they are in their homes and she is at a safe distance: <https://www.phillymag.com/news/2020/03/30/philadelphia-coronavirus-quarantine-family-photos/>

A professor asked his students to “Write it down” to keep a daily journal of their experience: <https://news.virginia.edu/content/write-it-down-historian-suggests-keeping-record-life-during-pandemic>

Another is asking for submissions of 300 words that include the phrase, “I blame the quarantine”: <https://turnto10.com/news/local/lets-write-the-pandemic-ric-professor-launches-creative-writing-challenge>

The *New York Times* features a collection of “human stories during the pandemic”: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/30/us/coronavirus-world-news-updates.html>

John Krasinski is collecting good news and sharing it as a news show: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5pgG1M_h_U

Submit your collection by the last day of class.