

<b>Themes From Student Survey on Learning During COVID-19</b>				
<i>Total #Participants</i>	23	<i>Age Range</i>	<i>7th grade - college junior</i>	
<b>Frustration Themes</b>		<b>Positive Themes</b>		<b>Better if... Themes</b>
expectations didn't change	4	flexibility (space & time)	13	**alter assignments/ restructure syllabus to fit online
attend zooms when finished weeks work	2	don't have any/many	4	more projects
lack of work ethic/motivation/focus	7	ability to pause/revisit recorded lectures	3	more collaboration
online testing leading to issues with cheating	4	internet as a resource	3	no tests
busy work	2			*more socializing
too much screen time	1			rethink time spent in class/school
boring	1			*less technical difficulties
Inconsistent communication	4			*more interactive
other responsibilities / priorities than school	2			access to typical school resources
lack meaningful conversations	4			
* = mentioned in response to frustration and better if questions				
** = mentioned in response to all 3 questions depending if schools did or did not do this				

## Full Responses:

### college freshman:

1. Teachers expecting the same outcome from students specifically in classes that were originally not online. I know it was extremely difficult for teachers to transition their whole lesson plans online but because it was thrown together so fast the lack of structure really hindered me. I guess the point I'm trying to make is that online classes are meant to be taken online, as in the lesson plans are built to be used on online platforms. Most of the classes I took this year were in

person, thus having them online was such a drastic change and the class structure was not prepared to be online.

2. Being able to work from more than one place and having the internet as a tool to search up anything I had trouble with.

3. It would be better if teachers had altered slightly what type of work was assigned/expected of the students. As an example, I had a biology lab where we would have to do several pages in a lab manual for a grade except our teacher still expected us to complete all the pages (with more limited resources from her because we weren't in the lab room) and upload them online. I had to submit ~50 pages for every chapter.

#### college sophomore:

1. my biggest frustration is probably not being able to ask questions of my professors in person
2. im not sure i have a favorite, it's not completely ideal
3. it would be better if internet was faster and could be easier for everyone to use without being glitchy/cutting out

#### 7th grader:

1. I hate having to go to zooms even if I already finished learning on my own what we are going over
2. I like not having to be timed on tests
3. It would be better if there were less zooms

#### college junior:

1. biggest frustration w/ online classes:

Alright, let me begin with work ethic. It is very hard for me to focus in a class that I am not too interested in (i.e. lots of the core classes we have to take at Tech) so naturally, if you remove the social construct of paying attention and the fear of the professor seeing you on your phone, then my incentive is very little to truly try and learn from History of Art II. I wish it wasn't the case, but it really isn't my idea of a college education when we get a boiled down-let's just get this out of the way and get a grade in the book class over what we signed up for in the first place.

But that's not fair of me to ask of a college that has been asked to shut down by the governing state--and for very good reason don't get me wrong. SO, here is my frustration with how the online classes have been carried out thus far: The teachers are very accommodating but I feel like it is to a point where we are jeopardizing the value our "prestigious college education" as you can see with the recent Chegg cheating scandal of the Georgia Tech Physics Department this past Spring. I believe we should be restructuring the classes to accommodate learning in

the new environment by **emphasizing collaboration in small groups** that can be done over BlueJeans calls, focusing on projects that require attention to detail, true knowledge of the subject, and that demonstrate our abilities in the subject rather than our Googling abilities. This is a big ask of a university that has probably never had to think about moving completely online but I definitely think it worth looking into as we move forward in this new normal.

## 2. my favorite part

As someone with a very short battery life on her laptop, I LOVE being able to type my notes for the entire duration of a 90 minute class while I have my laptop plugged in at my desk. I also love **being able to pause the lectures and take my time understanding the concept** the first go-round instead of maybe spending an entire afternoon in office hours demonstrating my inability to grasp a fluids concept that was taught for a total of 5 minutes in a speedy AE lecture to my professor. Lastly, I also appreciate having the lectures at my fingertips to go back and **watch again** because that's not normally a luxury a student has when on campus.

## 3. it would be better if...

Oops, I think I already touched on this in my first answer. But to expand on it, I am seeing in my ME 2016 Computing Techniques class that the professor has deemed **it not as useful to gauge our learning with tests** every week or so but with projects that tie together all the lecture material and require a few more hours of work per week. This way, we are talking with each other (even though we are all in different cities, at home) and bouncing ideas off of each other like we would in a workplace situation or on a research team. I anticipate this class being very valuable to me in the future, now more than ever since the online section has taken this new shape. I can only hope that if we are taking online classes in the Fall as well that the professors and their departments take this perspective on learning and **rethink the structure and delivery of their courses**.

### **High school junior:**

1. My biggest frustration about online learning is the **busy and extra work** we are given
2. Favorite part is the **flexibility** and ability to be independent and choose when you want to study and do with your day
3. It would be better if we were only given **big projects and then not as many small assignments**

### **7th grader:**

1. Not being able to be in person with my teachers
2. Being able to **wake up at any time and do my work at home/in my bed**
3. If we had less work

### **High school junior:**

1. My school has 30 minute breaks in between 45 minute classes (which used to be 1 1/2 hour classes) and it takes up so much more of the day, so if they just had shorter breaks I could be **over with class so much sooner to get to the rest of my day**
2. There barely is any. Two actual school days a week that have synchronous learning, and your grade can't go down now at all, as a rule
3. It would be better if answer number one was solved 😊

#### **College sophomore:**

- 1) it **fries my eyes bc I'm staring at a screen**. Also I'm **less motivated to pay attention**
- 2) I don't really have a favorite part but maybe being able to do it wherever I have WiFi, so it's flexible
- 3) if there was a way to make breakout groups when it's a large class

#### **High school sophomore:**

1. I find online learning really boring because of the lack of **interaction with my work**. For example **I really enjoy designing and building stuff for projects and I can't really do that as well now.**
2. I can do my **work on my own schedule**. I'm not a morning person so I don't really love getting up at 7:45 every morning to go to school, but now I can get up pretty much whenever I want.
3. It would be better if I was able to create my own schedule and not have to attend mandatory meetings ever day so I can work in my own time.

#### **High school junior:**

- 1 I have actually been having a great time with online learning. My only frustration would be that it is **hard to focus** when not in a school setting. Especially if the class is lecture-based. I find that when the teacher is being interactive and asking students questions I am more inclined to pay attention.
2. My favorite part is the **flexibility**. For instance, I can meet with my teachers for **extra help outside of school hours**. **Today (a Sunday)** I needed help with math and my teacher and I met on Zoom for two hours while he helped me prepare for my upcoming final.
3. Online learning would be better if there weren't so many **technical difficulties**. (Sorry I know that's so generic but I can't think of anything)

#### **College junior:**

1. **inconsistent methods of communication** - emails, canvas postings, announcements, piazza notes, by professor and/or by TA

2. I love that professors are more prepared for classes and students are given the resources that we would normally have in the non-test world.. **the internet as a resource for learning is the modern age**

3. **Expectations of professors on students would match** that of the current state, at home, many distractions, and difficult communication

#### **College freshman:**

1. It sucks and **I have no motivation** to do any of it. Plus it's just stressful because I forget about assignments or just don't realize I have them.

2. I can relax in bed while I do an assignment.

3. We went back to school. Teachers were **more interactive online**

#### **College sophomore:**

1) **Lack of participation** in online lectures

2) That my professors seem to be much more worried about the success of our class and that we are getting as full an education as possible given the circumstances

3) It would be better if it were easier to **form groups to study with/you could know who is in your class**

#### **College freshman:**

1. Biggest frustration about online learning is some teachers **lack of interactive online instruction**

2. **Assignments are more spaced out** giving me more time to work on them

3. Online classes were **more interactive**

#### **College junior:**

1. Even with the advances in technology, it is hard to have **meaningful conversations** with professors and fellow students. In online lectures, there is a chat function to ask questions, but by the time I can type out what I am thinking, we have passed the place in which my question lived. And then it is hard to follow up the answers with other questions.

2. I like that my **lectures are being recorded** so I can watch them multiple times or when I have time, if I missed the live section (if there is a live section).

3. Things would be better **if the administration took the situation into more consideration**. GT was one of maybe two schools in the top 50 for engineering that did not allow students to go pass fail in the wake of the crisis moving everything to online.

#### **College freshman:**

1. My biggest frustration has been the accessibility of professors and TAs being significantly less than when we were on campus.
2. My favorite part I guess has been the fact that I get home cooked meals again.
3. It would be better if resources provided on campus (everything from GT CARE to academic resources) were easier to access

#### **College freshman:**

1. Biggest frustration would probably be dealing with the logistics of "getting to class" and communicating over various platforms
2. Best part is definitely the move to more asynchronous work, but with synchronous meeting times for help and instruction
3. It would be better if I had more reliable/consistent ways to communicate with my professor

#### **High school freshman:**

- 1. I'm not able to communicate with my classmates and teachers the same way that I'm used to, i think it makes it harder to learn and stay motivated, feel like I'm not really learning, just learning for the exam, feel like grades don't matter.
- 2. Not having to wake up early, being able to work according to my own schedule, watching videos whenever you want, more free time in general so it takes less time and teachers are more relaxed about deadlines.
- 3. It would be much easier if all of this stopped and life got back to normal soon. I know the virus remains an issue, but it would be nice to return to normal soon. Have a more set in stone plan for quarantine and when things are released, idk

#### **College junior:**

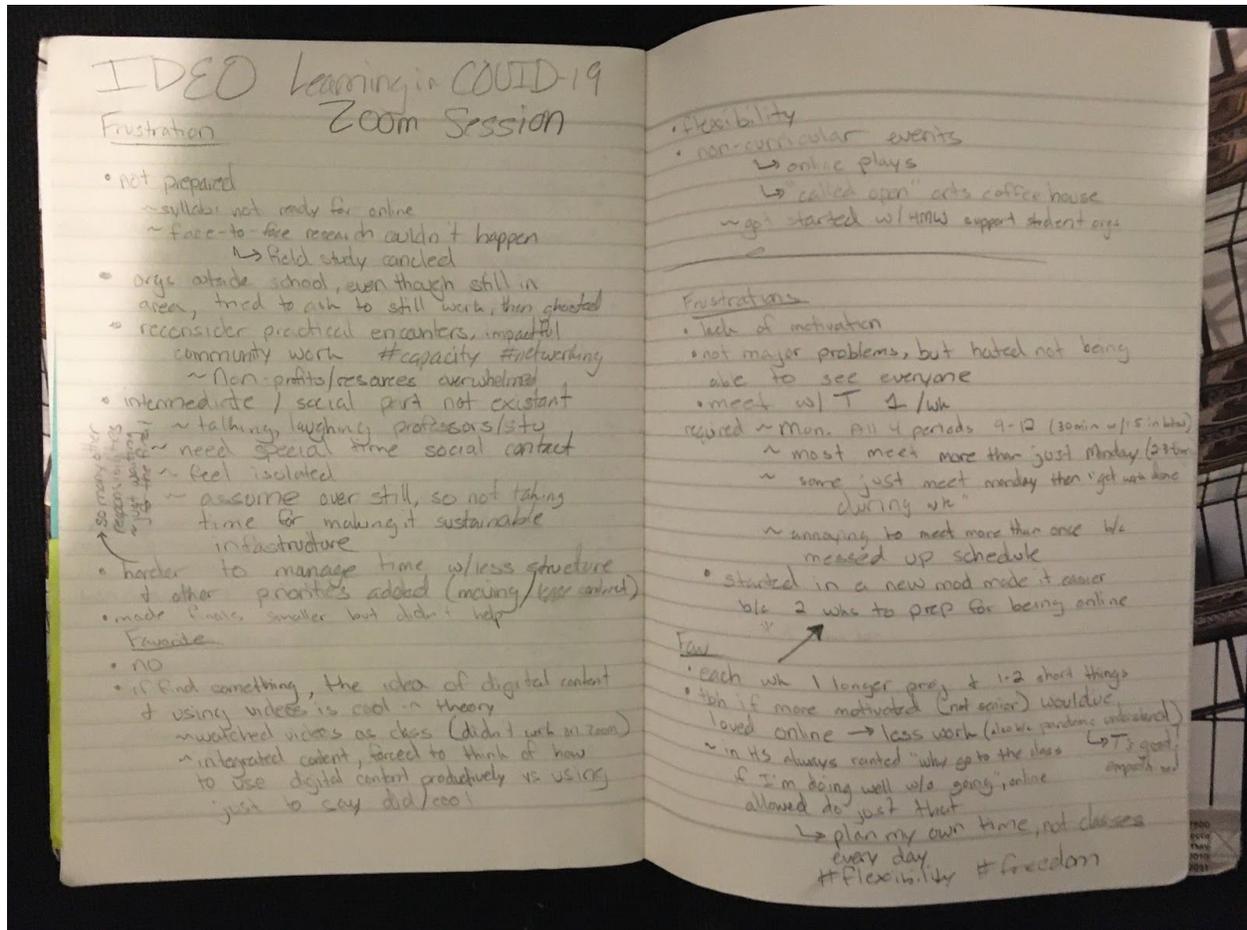
1. Probably not having control over my study environment. Usually I try and not study at my house lol.
2. I guess the flexibility of being able to decide when to do classes was nice.
3. It would be better if professors tried to tailor their online learning to what students want more.

#### **College junior**

1. Not having a seamless way to collaborate with others
2. My classes were more assignment based when they moved to online as opposed to lecture based which I enjoyed

3. It would be better if I wasn't forced to use zoom, which caused my computer to crash completely

## Interview Notes:



# Zoom Brainstorm Session:

## Brainstorm!

### Remote Learning

Acknowledge that online is different, we can't just take the same syllabus and move it digital, have to be intentional! ❤️  
 make video time intentional- we can watch videos/lectures without being on video chat, save video chat for interaction/discussion  
 Making remote learning interactive... effective use of breakoutrooms (clear transitions & instructions in chat)

teacher training!!! they really do be confused ❤️

How do online classes usually format assignments? Are there any assignment/independent homework styles that have been found to be better for students and teachers? How can we learn from those who have already done this before?

HMW provide more opportunities post pandemic for flexible learning/class times - students who have this flexibility & freedom really enjoy it, so how do we keep it?

For example... In class Tuesday, online Thursday?  
 Half semesters: take 2 classes online first half the semester, then back on campus for the second half taking 2 classes

Cancel traditional finals online! They have proven to not be effective; example at AP... (entrapping minors) ❤️❤️

How do we promote students engaging with their communities from a distance? What does practical encounters/experiential learning look like online?



Projects take more work and show better demonstration of work because you can't cheat on it, same with essay and annotating ❤️❤️

How we assess learning has to change

Ethical dilemmas of being a student during COVID

### Community

support and fund student organizations remotely- e.g. pay for online platforms that ❤️  
 orgs can use to facilitate activities

Start conversations about how online community time is used- work/life balance, how community time should be voluntary, fun, and community-building ❤️

Don't have to cancel group projects - good practice with remote teams (#realworld), also excuse for socializing, and more motivation to work when impacts others ❤️



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