

A DAY IN THE LIFE

By Student Smith

A day in the life of STUDENT SMITH is not always pretty. I'll be the first to admit that. High school is always fast-paced, and this pandemic year has been more chaotic than ever.

I am taking two AP classes, an honors class, and one really challenging math class, in addition to my various special subjects. That schedule translates into about three hours of homework each night plus what seems like a zillion hours of Zoom sessions. I could manage that type of workload without any problem, but add in basketball practice, a part-time job at Giant, and daily after-school babysitting for my two little brothers and things get crazy sometimes.

But that's also why I think I've become such a good student this year. For me, studying has become my refuge --my quiet time. I get to shut the door to my bedroom and just work. It actually feels kind of peaceful, reading about the Revolutionary War, powering through some lab questions, or even trying to write short essays. I enjoy the challenge of school, even when I sometimes don't do as well as I'd like.

I am hopeful that college will feel like that too, while providing even more time to focus on my own interests. I want to read longer, more complicated books. I want to learn how to write more interesting papers. I've always admired people who seem to write easily. For me, writing has often been a slow, painful process. Still, I can see that I am getting better. This essay, for example, only took me about 30 minutes (at least the first draft). I got it done just before I had to open my bedroom door, separate two crying brothers, and go downstairs to get dinner started. It was not the prettiest conclusion to a student work day, but ultimately (I hope) a successful one.