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Digital Media

Last year was definitely turbulent. It was a year of changes, from changes in our daily lives to changes in perspective. As a student, our way of learning changed. At my school, we spent the majority of the year online and had to adapt quickly. For some, this change took a toll on their mental health and for others, it helped them give more time to themselves. Obviously, other things happened such as loss of motivation, a gain of motivation, maybe a mutual experience, and so forth. Regardless, the impact it had was a strange one. Personally, this change was not for the worse but not for the best either but it was the biggest one for me so far.

Trying new things was not foreign in 2020, whether it ended well or not... that is why I decided on making a digital piece (in reference to trying new things). Anyways, I wanted to highlight how this change (in-person to online learning) impacted students. In the first and third panels, I wanted to show how it feels (personally) to learn online. In the morning everything is all good and I try to be attentive to school the best I can. Everything seems to make sense and I try to make what I can out of it. In the third panel, the person gets blurry and the background words are just blah blah blah. This is to represent how at the end of the day, I tend to get overwhelmed or just daydream due to the mental demand of online learning. It feels like I am no longer there but physically I am. The teacher's words get lost and just become background noise. When this happens, I desperately wait for school to end. This is the case for many students whether it is the end of the day, the end of class, or the end of the week. Many of us are just waiting for the week to be over and have the same week repeat over and over again.

I also wanted to present some events of the year as profile pictures in a google meet on the second panel. Some things seen as profiles are major events/important matters (BLM, the LGBTQ+ community, the USPS regarding mail-in ballots and work increase, covid-19 (mask), voter turnout (I Voted PFP), the fires in Australia/California), tributes (Kobe Bryant & Chadwick Boseman), and things that played a major role during my time in quarantine and school (Canvas (a school platform), BTS, Among Us, Tik Tok, APEX (videogame), Instagram). The whole thing itself is embedded with different icons and messages so I do recommend zooming in on the middle panel. It is hard to sum up 2020 because of how many events occurred. Either way, I wanted to present the events because instead of forgetting (like every other year), I want to be reminded of what happened in the year 2020 and reflect on it. Last year, I became aware of many more issues and topics, got to learn about myself, and change for the better. Learning and reflecting on the past will continue to help me grow as a person as well. Sometimes you just have to embrace change and make the best out of it :)