

Reflecting on the COVID archive

When we first started this project, I did not know what to put in it. I thought it meant finding "important" things from "important" people - like emails from the admin. I got all freaked out about finding the perfect 10 items. Then, one day in class, we had a whole discussion about what we could put in and someone said something about everyday things. Maybe I couldn't comprehend this because prior to this semester, I had ~~no~~ no experience with archives. After that I realized I'd been so caught up in trying to find ~~the~~ the perfect artifacts for the archive I'd neglected a lot of small but interesting things that had changed. Or maybe some things that felt unchanged or unimportant. When I came to that place of like "oh, it's just has to be something important/funny/interesting to me", I was able to immediately think of like 5 more items. But that's also what's hard about the archive: How do we empower people to see their experiences as valuable to the historical record? Even at this realization, I don't feel as if I'm important, I think no one will care/look @ my contributions. It's really something to consider.