

New Jersey English Journal

Volume 10 Course Correction: The Adaptive Nature of English Language Arts

Article 17

2021

Pandemic Paranoia and Proximity: A Transformation

Joseph S. Pizzo New Jersey Council of Teachers of English

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.montclair.edu/nj-english-journal



Part of the Curriculum and Instruction Commons

Recommended Citation

Pizzo, Joseph S. (2021) "Pandemic Paranoia and Proximity: A Transformation," New Jersey English Journal: Vol. 10, Article 17.

Available at: https://digitalcommons.montclair.edu/nj-english-journal/vol10/iss2021/17

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Montclair State University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in New Jersey English Journal by an authorized editor of Montclair State University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@montclair.edu.

Pandemic Paranoia and Proximity: A Transformation

JOSEPH S. PIZZO

New Jersey Council of Teachers of English

A new school year

Grades Classrooms

Teachers Lessons

Challenges

Altered schedules

Textbooks sealed and shunned

Classrooms depersonalized

Insidious threats

From unseen aerosols

Unsocial atmosphere

Untraced contacts

Atypical behavior

Waves, not hugs

Voices commanding

"Keep Six Feet Apart"

Unnatural Separation

Clear viscous gel

For sanitizing

Protecting

Insulating

Assuring

An ominous environment

Pandemic Paranoia

And

Proximity

School and society

Based in reality

Intense toil

Risks outweigh rewards

Social Distancing

No longer The practice

A young boy

And a young maiden

Must be mandated

To maintain

During middle school High school

Dances Proms

Study sessions Dates

Distancing now including

Classroom seating

Hallway travels

Greetings

Inquiry

Casual chatter

Heightened emotions

Attempted outreach

Disjointed Engagement

Dispirited outlook

Human touch Removed

High fives Shunned

Fist bumps Prohibited

Hugs On high alert

Robotic students

Masked

Gloved

Shielded

Separated

Shunned

Lockers Off limits Sealed tightly With firmness and precision Hallways transformed To highways Divided Controlled Unidirectional Lessons Hybrid Virtual **Internet Intervention** Zoom Meet Google Chat Box Electronic education Technological diversification Classes condensed Constrained Compartmentalized Separation **Space Imposition** Sirens in homes Alluring distractions Minecraft Fortnite Pokemon Roblox Instagram Snapchat

WhatsApp

Tik Tok Tik Tok

Go Guardian

Register Monitor

Trace Track

Learners challenged

Procedures transformed

Redefined

Repurposed

Relied upon

Focus

Brevity

Clarity

Videos

Instructional

Investigational

Inspirational

Legislated Separation

Devastation

Emotional Incarceration

Uncharacteristic Avoidance

Simplicity

Now complexity

Breathing regulations

Stress intensification

Unsolved enigmas

Daily challenges

To SEL

PBL

Group activity

After-school clubs

New lesson designs

Activities Postponements

Cancellations Expectations

Of persistence

Of continuance

Procedures to adapt

To follow

To obey

Challenges to overcome

Frustration to mount

Scapegoats to seek

Searches conducted

For targets

Frustration

Ventilation

Heroes reimagined

From typical categories

Essential service

In classrooms

Teachers Aides

Custodians Administration

In districts

In homes And communities

Bus Drivers Students

Parents/Guardians

Methodical inversion

Of Disney Maslow

And more

Consequences

Constantly dire Hope Losing luster Nature separated From nurture Uncommonality Unfamiliarity Compromise Concession **Social Convulsion** Classrooms reflecting community Lessons losing touch With humanity Society shunning Sensitivity Pandemic Paranoia And Proximity School mirroring society A transformation

In reality

Based