



2023

A Post-Pandemic Perspective: Challenges, Choices, and Adaptations

Joseph S. Pizzo

Black River Middle School, Chester, NJ

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



Part of the [Arts and Humanities Commons](#), and the [Language and Literacy Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Pizzo, Joseph S. (2023) "A Post-Pandemic Perspective: Challenges, Choices, and Adaptations," *New Jersey English Journal*: Vol. 12, Article 9.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.montclair.edu/nj-english-journal/vol12/iss2023/9>

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.

A Post-Pandemic Perspective: Challenges, Choices, Alterations

JOSEPH S. PIZZO

Black River Middle School, Chester, NJ

Routine upended	No screen time necessitated for connecting
Adjusted, altered, amended	Hands raised, hopes elevated
Pandemic-induced restructuring	A common plea
Mandated, not negotiated	A pleasing return to normalcy
In-person transformed into remote, into hybrid	Students in classrooms, The teacher moving among learners
Asynchronous offerings, emotional distress	Listening, collaborating, conferring, encouraging
Additional resources, roadblocks	Supporting creativity, discussing writing options together
Presumed maturity, required resiliency, youthful energy	In proximity, not chatting electronically
Replaced by separation, frustration, confusion	Surges of energy, fusion forming synergy
Skill gaps, learning loss, lack of routine	Fashioning a new pedagogy
Presumption of focus, mental strength	Shedding distance and despair
Ennui replacing resilience	Minimizing distraction, energizing instruction, eager minds
Disruption replacing resourcefulness	A return to concentration, collaboration
Falling leaves signal change:	Presence, focus, engagement, participation
A new school year blooms	Challenges addressed
Filled with anticipated hope	With patience, with kindness, With understanding, with reasonable pacing
The need for consistency, a constancy, a vision	Challenges and choices
Classes with students in person	For lessons, for skills, for routines
Not framed by distance, not packaged in a screen	For a simple return to normalcy
Daily discussions with voices generating signals of life	Focus and perspective
Within one common space	In a post-pandemic classroom
Smiles, sighs, inquiries, “Aha” moments	Challenges, choices, alterations
No distance mandated for learning	

JOSEPH S. PIZZO is a 7th-grade integrated language arts teacher at the Black River Middle School in Chester and an adjunct professor of writing at Centenary University in Hackettstown. In his 50th year of teaching middle school and 31st year at the university level, Joe constantly reinvents his best practices to stay current in his field while being a writer who teaches writing, a PD workshop provider, and a podcaster who features authors, middle level books, and issues (<https://www.youtube.com/@josephpizzo2357>). He can be reached at joseph.pizzo@chester-nj.org and on Twitter at @ProfJPizzo.