

ARGUMENTATIVE PAPER #1

CONTINUATION OF THE SEMESTER

Learning is fun in any possible way. Discovering new things whatever the situation is can uncover new abilities. Innovations and coping mechanisms amidst the COVID-19 pandemic are emerging. We are in an era where embracing technology-enhanced learning is much needed than the traditional face to face learning. This sudden shift to online learning culminates in the attempts taken during the past weeks to keep away from COVID-19 from reaching university demographics and spreading to local communities.

May Lim (2020) said that immediately having all the major classes online required good contact and a complete approach to the universities. The same learning outcomes are needed to be measured using these alternative approaches. If we are coming out of the pandemic, the degree plan must be understood, and all learning results will also still be met and shown despite the coping steps in effect. There are various reasons and ways to continue the semester.

The allotted time and effort of everyone is the first reason why the semester should continue. Related to this is the paid tuition fees that are already spent by students. We cannot blame the university if they stick with their rules of not reconsidering to return the money of students because if you think about it, they also have employees that exerted effort to do online discussions and activities for students to learn and comply with. Since different online platforms can be used like Zoom and Canvas that offer mechanisms for small group discussion and interactive visual student to student engagement, as well as promoting teacher-student conversation. Learning virtually is the new norm for everyone today.

Second, continuing the semester is more than just a compliance for students. We can learn from the workloads we are given. Since not all family members can go to work or can go outside the house, online classes can be a productive way to learn amidst this pandemic. Virtual learning allows you to learn in your comfort zone. It also allows you to do multitasking like participating and listening to online discussions while lying in bed or doing house chores.

The philosophy of Stoicism is somehow related to the situation we are facing today. Stoicism is a set of methods that enables us to guide our thoughts and behavior in an unpredictable environment. We may not control and rely on external events affecting us, but we can influence our minds and choose how we approach certain things. If all students and professors will apply this kind of mindset, we can accomplish and endure things without complaints. Human beings are meant to apply reason and act like humans and not live by our emotions. If emotions and compassion are the only things we must practice in this situation, those students who exerted their best effort at the beginning of the semester will go to waste. If you are struggling amidst this pandemic, you should consider that everyone is also struggling like you. In this crisis, we should do everything that we can and everything that is in our power to achieve our desired outcome or goals. Our rationality should be the prevailing behavior in this situation. Your behavior is what counts.

Our biggest lesson from these difficult times was to stay together and to grow together during periods of crisis. We may not agree with the decisions of most universities and the government; all we can do is to obey for the betterment of the country.