

**KEYWORDS: COVID-19, WRITING REFLECTION, SOCIAL CHANGE**

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## Writing/Journal Exercise: COVID-19 Reflection

Adapted from Bruno Latour's post titled "[A little exercise to make sure that, after the virus crisis, things don't start again as they were before.](#)"

***In this assignment, students are asked to reflect on how the Coronavirus pandemic might be able to lead to durable and positive social change. It can be assigned as a stand-alone writing assignment, as part of a class journal, or could be adapted as a collaborative activity in which students create lists and compare/discuss their answers with classmates. This assignment can be connected to climate change in a variety of ways (e.g. by having students focus on activities that lead to climate impacts/adaptation/mitigation/inequalities etc.), or can stand alone as a reflection on COVID-19.***

*"Let's take advantage of the enforced suspension of most activities to set out the inventory of those among them we would like to see not come back and those, on the other hand, that we would like to see developed. It will be all the more useful if the inventory relates to actually lived personal experience. The point is therefore not trying to name abstract entities over which we have little control (capitalism, the "system", political divides, etc...) but to start from extremely precise cases encountered in your daily life." -Bruno Latour*

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Work through the questions below **in order**. There are no wrong answers, so please be thoughtful and thorough but don't worry about getting it "right":

1: *Create a list answering this question:*

What activities or actions that are currently suspended would you like to see **not** resumed?

**[list of at least three activities with a short description if needed]**

2: *Choose two of the activities that you listed above. For each:*

Describe why you think this activity is harmful/ superfluous/ dangerous/ inconsistent/ problematic and how its disappearance/suspension/substitution would constitute a positive form of social change.

[Write 3-4 sentences for each of the two negative activities/actions]

3: What measures do you recommend to ensure that the workers/employees/agents/entrepreneurs who will no longer be able to continue in the activities you are removing are helped in their transition toward other activities.

[Write 2-3 additional sentences for each of the two negative activities/actions]

4: *Now, create a list answering this question:*

What activities or actions that are currently suspended would you like to resume, redevelop, or create from scratch?

[list of at least three activities with a short description if needed]

5: *Choose two of the activities that you listed above. For each:*

Describe why this activity seems positive to you and how it makes it easier/ more harmonious/ consistent with the type of community/society/world you want to live in. If applicable, how does it help to combat the activities that you consider unfavorable?

[Write 3-4 sentences for each of the two positive activities/actions]

6: What measures do you recommend to help workers/ employees/ agents/ entrepreneurs acquire the capacities/ means/ income/ instruments to take over/ develop/ create this favorable activity?

[Write 2-3 additional sentences for each of the two activities/actions]

**\*A note on grading:** I suggest instructors assign full points assuming students make a meaningful effort to answer each portion of the assignment (rather than grading for content).