

Part II – Non-Freshman Applicant’s Essay

"Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety." - Benjamin Franklin

The COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic has convinced both federal, state, and local governments to implement an unprecedented, deliberate shutdown of the American Economy. This controversial lockdown was implemented to save lives by slowing the spread of the virus, but also forced millions of Americans to lose their jobs. The lockdown also raised legal and constitutional concerns; without due process of law, several fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Constitution’s Bill of Rights and the Maryland Declaration of Rights may have been violated.

The COVID-19 Pandemic began 102 years after another deadly pandemic ravaged the world. Between the Spring of 1918 and the Summer of 1919, a severe strain of the H1N1 Virus, that became known as the Spanish Flu, killed approximately 500 million people.

Please read and watch the required materials below. After that, please write a 700 – 850 word essay comparing and contrasting current Federal and State government responses to the Corona Virus Pandemic of 2020 with the historical response taken during the 1918 Spanish Flu epidemic.

Please address the following questions in your essay:

1. What kinds of restrictions on travel and commerce did federal and state governments place on citizens during the 1918 Spanish Flu, and how did those restrictions differ from those currently in place?
2. Compare the fatality rate of the 1918 flu to that of COVID-19. Discuss which pandemic presented the more significant global health crisis.
3. Compare the economic damage caused by the 1918 Spanish Flu to the economic damage that the current pandemic, and the government response to it, has caused.
4. Discuss some of the core freedoms and liberties guaranteed to citizens by the United States Constitution’s Bill of Rights and Maryland’s Declaration of Rights that are relevant to health pandemics. Which of these freedoms and liberties are currently restricted by the Corona Virus pandemic and were they also restricted during the 1918 Spanish Flu?
5. Discuss the costs and benefits of the COVID-19 shutdown. Is the economic cost, as well as the infringement on individual freedom, worth slowing the spread of the virus?

Required Sources:

The required media includes approximately 80 pages of text and 2 and a half hours of videos. All materials are available free of charge on the Internet, and should take approximately 4 hours to review.

Online Reading Sources:

The Federal And State Constitutions

The Bill of Rights <https://www.archives.gov/files/legislative/resources/education/bill-of-rights/images/handout-3.pdf>

1. Maryland Declaration of Rights
<https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/43const/html/00dec.html>

Important News Articles

1. “The coronavirus crisis and our constitutional rights” - Los Angeles Daily News
<https://www.dailynews.com/2020/04/12/the-coronavirus-crisis-and-our-constitutional-rights/>
2. “The Approaching Coronavirus Debt Crisis: How Excessive Debt Reduces Economic Growth” - Forbes <https://www.forbes.com/sites/mikepatton/2020/04/28/the-approaching-covid-19-debt-crisis-how-excessive-debt-reduces-economic-growth/#e24242d6e947>

Academic Sources

1. 1918 Influenza: The mother of all pandemics by Jeffery K. Taubenberger and David M. Morens. <https://www.medigraphic.com/pdfs/revbio/bio-2006/bio061i.pdf>
2. The Influenza Pandemic of 1918 – Stanford University Online (read through all sections of the online website) <https://virus.stanford.edu/uda/index.html>

NGO Sources

1. World Health Organization Corona Virus Situation Reports
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>

Think Tanks

1. “The Spanish Flu Pandemic and the U.S. Economy” - ABA Banking Journal
<https://bankingjournal.aba.com/2020/04/the-spanish-flu-pandemic-and-the-u-s-economy/>
2. “Why Congress’s Trillion-Dollar Coronavirus Bailouts Will Shackle The U.S. Economy” - The Federalist <https://thefederalist.com/2020/03/18/why-congresss-trillion-dollar-coronavirus-bailouts-will-shackle-the-u-s-economy/>
3. Saving Lives and Livelihoods: Recommendations For Recovery – Heritage Foundation
http://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2020/NCRC_Interim_Report%5B1%5D.pdf
4. Why the Founders Limited Executive Power – Foundation For Economic Education
<https://fee.org/articles/why-the-founders-limited-executive-power/>

Online Video Sources:

1. We Heard The Bells: The Influenza of 1918 (Documentary) - US Department of Health and Human Services <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkGi9FKZzDI>
2. How the Government Bungled the Coronavirus Response – Reason TV
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzBYJPkntsk>
3. “Banking Expert: What You Need to Know About Today's Economy” - Prager U (special attention to 4:35) <https://www.prageru.com/video/banking-expert-what-you-need-to-know-about-todays-economy/>