

2020BradshawCarrie-abstract

Abstract

In March of 2020, schools around the country closed their doors. For the first time in their careers, teachers were left stranded—no guidance, no classrooms, no light at the end of the tunnel. Teachers were forced to teach remotely, using online resources and video calls. They were no longer in front of their students to help them, forcing the students to teach themselves in many cases. A feeling of helplessness washed over the educational world.

For thousands, their teaching career hadn't even truly begun, yet they were still thrown into the chaos of this new normal.

Student teachers ride the line between “student” and “teacher”. They balance these two lives delicately, careful not to let one overpower the other. Their entire world revolves around finishing their studies to become the professionals they so desperately want to be. But what happens when both sides are ripped away from them in one fell swoop?

In *Alone Together: An Ethnodrama of the Experiences of Student Teachers During COVID-19*, we follow the stories of six student teachers living through the outbreak of COVID-19. While the names have been changed, the stories and emotions have not. They are living through a time when nothing is certain. Will they finish student teaching? Will they be able to finish their degrees? Will they see their students again? Will they have a graduation ceremony? Will they find a job? When will the world go back to normal? Should it go back to normal?

Ethnodramas pull in research from interviews, journals, and other forms of research in order to accurately tell a true story. This method allows voices to be heard and stories to be shared. *Alone Together* pulls from hours of interviews with real student teachers, countless articles, and real time news sources to paint a picture of some experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through this project, we reach into the minds and hearts of six individuals who wanted to share their side of the story. They all have their own reasons for sharing their stories, though, in a nutshell, they just want to be heard. *Alone Together* gives these individuals a voice, and hopefully through them, the thousands like them as well.

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