Proposal for Final Paper

Tiffany Flores

John Jay College of Criminal Justice

 Over the past month, we have been hearing about the term social distancing more than ever. It might be me slowly losing my mind but lately, I’ve been brainstorming about where this term came from. Which brought me to my general topic which is, what is social distancing? Obviously that’s a very obvious question that wouldn’t need much research which brings me to my three inquiry questions. The first one being, how does social distancing flatten the curve/ prevent viruses from spreading? The second one being, is social distancing actually the most effective course of action when it comes to stopping viruses from spreading? The third and final question is, will social distancing become the new way in which we live and interact in this world?

 I feel all of this questions are not straight forward enough to figure out with a quick google search. They are all super important topics to be informed about especially with how hard coronavirus is hitting around the world. Many people choose to be ignorant of the fact that social distancing will probably be the only way that we can get rid of the coronavirus which is making the whole process longer than it needs to be. My questions are a mix of looking for effective ways to flatten the curve, if social distancing is actually the best course of action, and how social distancing will change our future. I know for a fact they are important since it’s all that’s being talked about in the media and I know most people are asking the same questions in their head during this pandemic.

 While all these questions are important I feel as if my first question is one that I could effectively research. While my other two questions are important to know the answers to I feel like there’s more information out there on how social distancing can flatten the curve. My plan for research is pretty simple. I think I should start by comparing countries who have effectively used social distancing to their advantage and those who haven’t done enough social distancing in regards to coronavirus. However, before I even start I need to figure out when social distancing actually started and how it helped the spread of other viruses to slow down. By showing how social distancing worked (or didn’t work) in other countries combined with showing how it worked with other diseases will help me figure out how effective social distancing actually is. Another method I can use is showing how diseases spread without the use of social distancing compared to the coronavirus when social distancing was implemented. I think the hardest part of my research will be finding other instances of social distancing other than coronavirus. This is honestly the first time I have heard of the term social distancing so we will see if it has been used for other diseases.