## Ian McKiddy

Resilience is a fickle thing. We as human beings have the strength and durability to endure countless tribulations. Being a college student I have experienced challenges and have often guestioned whether I am fit to achieve academically. However, I have chosen to not give up. Resilience is the brother of perseverance and, as a student, I am a prime example of misfortunate tidings and the ability to resist my circumstance. On February 12th my mother passed away unexpectedly. Growing up we had a tremulous relationship due to the constant decline of her mental health and rampant alcoholism. It is only in my adulthood that I have been able to stand strong and forge my own path. But losing her, I have lost a piece of myself. A component I thought I did not need. Something to toss aside and grow from. In truth, I simply feel lost. Part of me is gone. Some things are irreplaceable, even more some are just broken. But you can still see yourself in a broken mirror. Depending on where you stand your reflection can be as clear as a summer sky. Losing someone who is so pertinent to your existence is the hardest thing I have ever dealt with. I lost my only parent that day. I have had to manage her finances, cremation, and division of all of her things between my brother, sister, and I. One of my reasons for trying to attain a degree was to save those I love that seemed unable to save themselves, particularly my mother. That purpose is all but a dream of yesterday. Moving into tomorrow I have to find the motivation for myself. Simultaneous to losing my mother, the college shut down due to a cyber attack. Getting back online and completing the remainder of my classes with little direction from professors was challenging to say the least. I am an online student regularly as I work so much, however, working off of websites and emails opposed to the LMS (Blackboard) that I was already acclimated to, was baffling. I managed to finish my classes with A's despite my current emotional state and limited resources. Getting through the ransomware attack as a college is impressive for all of us though, not just me. Covid 19 and the cyber attack, separated us even further from one another. So in a way we all exhibit the command of resilience. With everything that happened with the college and my mother, somewhere along the way I caught covid 19. I had to quarantine in a time that I thought that I would not have to be alone. Cut off from the remnants of my family, I endured. I resigned myself to a better fate. I must rely on my unfaltering motivation for a more beneficial future. I have to maintain my 4.0 grade point average. One thing that my life has taught me is that resilience is the root of my existence. I will always get up no matter how many times I have been knocked to the ground, no matter who I lose. No matter what it costs. I will persevere. I will remain resilient.