

Author Talks about Socializing During the Pandemic

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. overwhelming / ˌōvər'(h)welmiNG/ adjective very great in amount.
Example: She wanted to express her overwhelming feeling of gratitude.
2. respondents /rə'spændənt/ a person who replies to something, especially one supplying information for a survey or questionnaire or responding to an advertisement.
Example: Most respondents to our questionnaire considered their practices to be in accordance with current medical guidelines.
3. common interest - /'kämən 'int(ə)rəst/ something in common, something similar
Example: The common interest may be a sport or the same form at school.
4. insights - /'in,sīt/ a deep understanding of a person or thing.
Example: He is a leader of great insight.
5. boil down to (phrasal) have a particular thing as the main or central part.
Example: Most of the crimes may boil down to a question of money.



An author put out a call on social media and learned 8 things on how people find friendship during the pandemic. People were able to find connections in several ways such as: movement, furry friends, creativeness,, gaming, neighbor, support and established groups and even coworkers.

Christine Koh of CNN said that forming new friendships is important for people's mental well-being. Christine said that she herself has found support through her author group during the first two years of pandemic. She said that they all provided her emotional support online but was only able to meet two of the other authors in person from the entire group of 12. She said because of the **overwhelming** love and support she received from her group, she in turn would like to find out how people are able to connect with others.

According to her research people said that the desire to move, be outside and try different things were able to set the stage for new relationships. One of the **respondents** also mentioned that in his case it was his dog that led him to meet other dog lovers. Another respondent was able to find **common interest** with a mixed-level clothing design group and was able to enter two art shows.

With all the respondents' **insights** it all **boils down** to having a common interest with a particular group and even if restricted to online communication, people are still able to connect and establish relationships. Christine said, "Putting yourself out there and building new relationships can feel difficult, but if we have learned anything in the past two years, it is that we can do what's hard. Finding a new friend may be the best hard thing you do this year."

DISCUSSION

1. Do you prefer a few close friends or a large group of friends? Why?
2. Why are friends important?
3. How did you meet friends before the pandemic? How about during the pandemic?
4. Do you share the same interests with your friends?
5. How important is it to have a support group?