Q1. Your first name

██████

Q2. Your last name

████

Q5. Would you prefer your identity as contributor be kept anonymous?

No = No, I don't want my identity to remain anonymous
Yes = Yes, I do want my identity to remain anonymous

○ No
◉ Yes

Q6. **Title of Your Contribution**

What is the item called? Or, if it doesn't have a title, how would you best label it? The subject or topic of the folklore can be an easy way to label it: "Cat Joke" or "St. Patrick's Day Breakfast" or "Penguin Meme" or "Lucky Hat."

Quarantine Mailing Lists

Q7. **File Name of Contribution**

Please label the jpg/pdf/gif/mp4/etc. in the following manner: Year (in four digits)_Semester Abbreviation (AU/SP/SU)_Your Initials_Title of Contribution

For example, if Rachel Hopkin submitted a penguin meme during the 2024 Autumn semester, the file name should read as follows: 2024_AU_RH_Penguin Meme

What is the name of your file?

2022_SP_SD_Quarantine Mailing Lists.jpg

Q24. Upload your item as a jpg/pdf/gif/mp4 with the correct title (see File Name, above)

[2022_SP_SD_Quarantine Mailing Lists.jpg](#)
44.6KB
image/jpeg

Q25. Upload your consent form as a PDF with this file name: Year (in four digits)_Semester Abbreviation (AU/SP/SU)_Your Initials_File Name_Consent

Example: 2024_AU_RH_Penguin Meme_Consent

[2022_SP_SD_Quarantine Mailing Lists_Consent.docx](#)
38.4KB
application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document

Q8. Provide citation for your item using current Chicago style.

"R/OSU - CSC Emails Are the Most Interaction I've Had on Campus in a While." reddit. Accessed March 1, 2022. https://www.reddit.com/r/OSU/comments/t013gv/csc_emails_are_the_most_interaction_ive_had_on/.

Q9. **Date of Item Collection**

On what day did you make a copy of the item to submit to the SDFC? Submit your date in this format: Month/Day/Year. Put zeros in front of single digits.

Example: 05/06/2022

03/01/2022

Q10. **Date of Item's Original Posting**

If known/available, please note when the folklore item was first put online or shared via other electronic mode. Follow the date format above.

02/22/2022

Q11. **Author/s of Item**

If known/available please give name/s and, if possible, contact details. If not available, put N/A

Account name: Papa-Spider. It is unknown if a repost or original – likely original, as it is specific to OSU, and reposts are generally deleted on Reddit

Q12. Was the posting of the folklore item original or a repost (if known)?

Q13. Where was the item sourced? (For example, TikTok, Instagram, Facebook etc.)

Reddit – r/OSU

Q14. **Description: What the Folklore Item Depicts**

Imagine you are trying to describe its contents to someone who does not have access to the item. What would you need to tell them so that they can picture it?

This meme depicts a stock image of a man holding his head in his hands, viewed through a rainy glass window. A top caption, added to the image, reads, "PLEASE ADD ME TO ALL THE MAILING LISTS" A similarly added bottom caption reads, "AT THIS POINT I JUST WANT TO FEEL SOMETHING" Both captions are in white text with black outline. The font resembles impact (the standard for top text bottom text style memes), but is not impact. Naturally, these captions convey a joke about quarantine isolation and modern communication; the narrator is so deprived for social contact that they are attempting to use impersonal emails as a surrogate. This is likely ironic, pointing out how the countless emails OSU students receive are often completely impersonal, despite their jovial character.

Q14. **Providing Context**

In the next section, give as much contextual information necessary so that a future researcher will be able to understand what is represented in and the significance of the folklore item. You'll want to consider three different types of context here: the context of <u>collection</u>, the context of <u>use</u>, and the <u>cultural</u> context of the folklore. They are described below. It is possible that the various contexts may overlap.

Q15. **Context of Collection**

Describe where you were (and when and doing what) when you came across the folklore item and also **how** you came across the item.

I found this meme on the OSU reddit, browsing for an image to add to the archive. It struck out to me through its themes of quarantine isolation and digital communication falling short.

Q16. **Context of Use**

Describe where, when, and with whom the folklore would normally be shared (it's possible that the context of collection and context of use overlap).

This meme was posted publicly to r/OSU, meant for the eyes of OSU students and anyone else on the subreddit. As an OSU student, I am the intended audience, though my motivation to add the image to an archive is unintended.

Q17. **Cultural Context**

Describe all other aspects of information that will enable a future researcher to make sense of the piece. For example, describing who is depicted in the folklore item and their significance; explaining any references to popular culture contained within the item; detailing relevant sociocultural, political, or other issues at play at the time of the folklore item's creation/sharing (such as the Covid pandemic or concerns regarding safety on because of recent incidents of on campus violence).

OSU students receive many impersonal emails addressed to broad groups. These emails attempt a jovial and energetic tone, but to the reader Like many other memes, a stock image is used. In this case, the image is relatively unimportant, but the use of stock images is often done ironically, as they are often strange or low quality. The format of the meme is top text bottom text, one of the oldest meme formats. This straightforward format involves adding a humorous top and bottom text to an image, almost always in white impact font with black outline. Presumably, this format arose naturally; the captions leave room for the image, and the font is highly visible no matter the color. However, since its inception this format has become iconic, propagating and inspiring meta-humor (e.g. writing the words "Bottom Text" instead of an actual caption). In many ways, this format is nostalgic, harking back to earlier days of the internet; this nostalgia may be used ironically, or to increase absurdism (in the same way that going to work in 1920s fashion would be rather absurd). In this particular instance, I think there is no irony or meta-humor; the format is used only to tell a conventional joke.

Q18. If the folklore item features slang terms, please explain their meaning. If no slang terms are included, put N/A

N/A

Q19. Is the folklore item part of a recognizable category/trend of OSU Student Digital Folklore? If so, what? (For example, "affirmation memes.")

I would categorize this only as a meme, but there is certainly a tendency towards this kind of crass, ironic, and critical humor on the OSU reddit and other social media platforms.

Q20. Have you seen variations of this folklore item recycling the same or similar ingredients? If so, please give details

As mentioned above, this meme's format is common, but it doesn't seem to borrow any ingredients. The image, for instance, really is just a stock image with no particular connotation.

Q21. Describe your thoughts regarding what purpose the folklore item might be serving. For example, is it highlighting a particular student concern, and if so, what concern?

On a surface level, this meme serves as commiseration, drawing sympathy from many in the very public place of Reddit. Many people have experienced loneliness in the past years due to COVID-19, and many OSU students have been annoyed by the overpopulation of impersonal, broad audience emails sent to their inboxes; the meme is therefore relatable. Digging deeper, this meme could be interpreted as a connection between loneliness and technology. In many ways, computers fulfill once human jobs, but do their work without emotion. Even Email, something written by a human, can have the life drained from it if it is mass produced and sent to strangers. On a final level, this meme is unintentionally ironic; it seeks consolation and commiseration from strangers on the internet, while simultaneously deriding a form of internet communication, seeing it as impersonal.

Q22. Suggest keywords for the folklore item. For example, COVID, student life, campus, football, foodways, dance, games, pranks, jokes, slang, etc.

Meme, Email, communication, OSU, Quarantine, COVID, COVID-19