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| **Reviewer Comment** | **Response** | **Page no. where change was made** |
| This is a really interesting and engaging reflective commentary on new  faculty members' experiences of adjusting to higher education life amidst  the many challenges of COVID-19. While this commentary will be of interest  to the journal's readership there are some ways in which the authors could  improve the paper:  1) stating who the intended audience is and the overall aim/ objective of  the paper is in the first paragraph;  2) providing some background context for international readers in the  opening section, e.g. national/ state location of the authors? professional  backgrounds - registered social workers? Keep in mind the paper will be read  by an international audience not familiar with the US social work context  3) integrating more teaching/ pedagogical scholarship to support their  reflections - I've indicated a couple of spots where this would be  beneficial on the manuscript.  I enjoyed reading this and several of the comments resonated with my own  current experiences as a 'mid-career' social work scholar. | Thank you for taking the time to review our commentary. We have carefully read your comments and incorporated them in our paper. Our detailed responses are included below besides each comment.  Thank you for this suggestion. We have now added information on the intended audience alongside the main objective in the first paragraph as suggested.  Thank you for your suggestion. We have added some contextual information for readers in the opening section.  Thank you for your comment. We have responded to the comments in our paper and integrated more teaching/pedagogical scholarship strategies to support our reflections.  Thank you for taking the time to review our commentary and helping us strengthen it with your invaluable comments. | Throughout the commentary.  Page 1 (within the “COVID-19 and academia” paragraph).  Page 1 (within the “our positionalities, roles and preparation for the Autumn/Fall semester” paragraph).  Pages 2-7 (within the “getting the publications,” “teaching virtually” and conclusion sections.  N/A |