Gerry Labarbera

Final Reflection Paper

I had recently completed my class at UHGC teaching older adults how to use a computer. I think that the teaching went well and I feel that they learned a lot. However, I also feel that I really learned a lot from everyone there about life and how much to enjoy the simple things it has to offer. My time there went by so fast that it’s hard to believe it’s over already. The experience as a whole went both ways in me teaching them about the computer world, and them teaching me about everything else.

It started when I walked into the class and first met Evelyn. She quickly corrected me and told me it was okay for me to call her “Evie”. I found out very quickly that she liked to joke around and laugh and I immediately felt relieved that I had received a “good” student. I later found out that every one of them in independent living, were “good” students. Every one there was extremely friendly and willing and able to learn anything new about the machine that was there in front of them.

Evie really led me by letting me know exactly what she wanted to do. One of the first things she asked about was how exactly to get onto the internet. I explained to her what to click, how to click, and what to expect and she picked it up almost instantly. We later moved onto different things on the internet like horoscopes, email, and even IM’s.

She picked up things faster than I expected. By the next week I was expecting to have to refresh up on everything we learned the week before but to my surprise, when I walked into the room she was already on the internet. I could hardly believe my eyes, and myself, that she could remember everything I told her the week before. It would have been difficult for anyone to remember everything I told her from scratch. It really made me realize that these people still do have a lot left to offer and learn at the same time.

In conclusion in think that this entire experience went a lot better than I was expecting. I really feel that we both are better people just from the communication aspect. It taught me not to judge people and to always give them a chance. It also taught me how much they all can learn in such a short amount of time. The experience could not have been any better.