Kyle Cunningham

Final reflection paper

                The teaching experience that I have experienced over the past few weeks is something that I will never forget.  I was at first skeptical about the situation but immediately upon beginning the lessons I became extremely comfortable and was something that I actually looked forward too.  The internet has become such an important tool in today’s society and I believe is something that everyone should be able to use.  My student elder was very interested in being able to navigate throughout the internet.  It felt good to help her broaden her knowledge of the internet and in turn give her an opportunity to be more comfortable using the internet for various uses.

                My students name was Minnie.  She had used the computers in the past, she said that whenever she had an issue her husband was always there to help her.   In general I feel that she must have had a small role in using computers and therefore was no too familiar with the internet and the many features that it contained.  From day one she always knew going into the lesson what she wanted to learn.  She always had a strong interest in the internet and the many features that it contains.  We had to start very slow with her, using primarily the basic functions such as just navigating from site to site, adding sites to a favorite list, and going back and fourth through the pages.  Every time that I came in she would basically want to review everything that we went over the week before.  At one point in our lessons I would write everything down that I taught her so that she could study it in her own time.  Unfortunately it seems like every week we constantly did the same things over and over again.  I had no issue with this; I just wanted her to learn.  She would constantly ask me, do other elders have trouble like me?  I would always respond and tell her of course, and that she was learning and becoming much better from day one.  I tried to encourage her as much as I could, I constantly told her how I was seeing improvements and that all she has to do is keep on practicing and eventually she will become more comfortable.

                This class had a positive effect on me and the way I feel about helping people in general.  Prior to beginning my lessons I was skeptical about the entire situation and the idea of teaching an elder about computers.  Unfortunately at times I am close minded about certain issues and at first I was in regard to this.  The complete truth is that the minute I walked into Minnie’s apartment and met her all my worries and doubts about the experience went away.  I was immediately comfortable around her and I became motivated to help her learn computers better.  I immediately noticed her fear about computers and I constantly told her that there is nothing to be scared of and that if she practices she will become a lot more comfortable.  My main goal was to help her lose her fear of computers.  Hopefully that is what I did because at the end of the last lesson I was confident that she was much more comfortable in using computers.  Overall, I give this class a lot of credit for helping me as well.  I definitely have become more open minded in regard to helping people and I truly feel like it is something I am going to be interested in doing for the rest of my life.

                I truly would advice people to someday help elders out in some sort of way.  It really is a satisfying experience and something that I will always remember.  The older generation is different than we are today seeing as we literally grew up on computers.  Due to this we should teach them the many things that we know about computers and share our knowledge.