Jacqueline Cerchiara

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Reflection Paper

       On first day of class I didn’t know what this course was about. All I knew that this was an AOK course that was able to fill my requirement to graduate form Pace University. I was told that the CSI 102T class was a computer course that helped the elderly to use computers. When I heard it was to help the elderly, I became more interested on taking this course. The main reason was because I had worked with the elderly community for about three years, volunteering at a local nursing home where I lived in Queens. I volunteered at Meadow Park for a year before getting hired as a Recreation Leader. In this position, I helped the elderly with their cognitive skills. I was able to get to know each patient on a personal level and it ended up being a learning experience. That’s also how I felt by taking this course and getting to know the residences at Hallmark, an adult living building located in Battery Park.

   From the Pace students description of the course I knew this was the course for me. When I walked into the class I didn’t know what to expect. Professor Coppola surprised me the first day of class. She surprised me by being extremely passionate about her job. She strongly believes that the elderly should learn how to use a computer and have a computer room in the adult living building or nursing home setting. By achieving this goal, it will help bring in students from community to help the elderly and gain new relationships.

   A lot of young people think that elderly people are rude and cranky. I think this trend came along due to movies and TV. Therefore, young people became scared of the elderly community. I am glad this class is being offered in Pace because it opens a young person’s eyes on the false facts about the elderly community.

       On the first day at Hallmark, the class was greeted by Alison, a tour guide from the facility. Alison took us to a specific room to talk to the seniors. Most of the seniors wanted to learn the basics of using the computer and internet. All of the seniors strongly felt out of touch with the world because of the advances of technology. One elderly lady wanted to communicate with her family members online because she has a hard time communicating with the family on the phone. Another elderly lady wanted to learn how to use a computer to organize her writing. Another senior wanted to learn how to use skype to talk to his grandson who is in college in France. By taking the time to listen to what they want to learn, it showed us that the elderly are willing to take that step into the world of technology. They just need someone to help them through that new chapter in there lives.

        I had the chance to work with a very sweet mother, grandmother and her name is Dorothy. She is one of the residences at Hallmark. She is pretty familiar with the computer setup but I learned by the second session she was concerned about her son in Iraq. She had his email address but couldn’t get it to work. He works for the New York Times and was always traveling around the world for his job. She became extremely worried because her son didn’t email her for three days. I told her we would figure out why he hadn’t emailed her back the past couple of days. The reason why he didn’t email her was because she actually didn’t email him. She wrote the wrong email address. She had put caps lock in the email address and the address was in lowercase. By the end of the session she did get an email for her son, who was fine.

        I still can’t believe how active Dorothy is for her age. She was in her late eighties and she’s learning how to play the flute and she sing in the choirs. She is pretty good with the computer for her age. She types up letters quickly and can use a mouse. Sometimes, she has difficulty using the mouse because she can’t see that well. My partner and I also made her account on Amazon because she loves to shop for bargains and it’s fast and quick. You can just search for what you need, instead of going out and not finding what you want in the store. Plus, she wanted to make account for Amazon for along time. I am glad my partner and I where able to help her to achieve that goal and to reach her son in Iraq. I also found that all the residence at Hallmark are very sweet people and remind me of my grandparents.

       This course showed me to respect the elderly and how they still want to learn how to use technology. The main reason why they want to learn how to use computers is to get back in touch with the world again. Some are scared and may need a push to get started. That’s why this course is important because we are here to help the elderly who feel they aren’t capable to use a computer. By this experience the elderly are using a computer by themselves and are enjoying every moment of it.