Jacqueline Martoral

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REFLECTION PAPER

Coming in to this class I had a very unwelcoming mentality towards seniors, let alone teaching seniors about technology. But over the last two months, that mentality has drastically changed in a very positive way. Meeting up with my assigned senior citizen from Isabella helped me open up my mind-set and allowed me to see how beautiful seniors are and their very important role in the community.

The first week in I was unmotivated and going to Isabella was not the highlight of my day. Once I met my senior citizen, I thought his aura was very positive and I immediately knew I would enjoy his company, but not as much as I actually do now. Carmen (my partner for this project) and I introduced ourselves and so did he. After a brief introduction, we started to teach him about the mouse and started doing various exercises on the computer with him. He went on to telling us a story about how he was taking a computer class in school before he got admitted into Isabella. I always thought the elderly would bother me when they told stories, but I was actually very interested in everything he had to say and gave him my undivided attention.

For the next couple of weeks, we were unable to meet with him because he was having health complications and had to be hospitalized several times. This period of time without having any contact with him, gave Carmen and I the opportunity to think of new things to do with him, and better ways to improve his experience with the computer and us as well. When he was able to start his lessons once again, we showed him videos on “youtube” and showed him how to look for his daily horoscope (he loves horoscopes and zodiac signs as well as their meaning).

The delight that teaching him these new things brought to me was unreal. It was like opening a world for someone and brining him or her happiness, which I never knew I had the power to bring someone. A kid is easy to satisfy, you just play with them and they are entertained. They have never seen the negative side of life so it is easy for them to be happy. An adult expresses what they want more often than not, and this allows for constant satisfaction from those surrounding them. Seniors on the other hand, have only tales to tell in their new-found disconnected world, and teaching seniors about computers made me feel like I hooked that link between their world and actuality once again.

More than what this senior attained from Carmen and I teaching him about computers, is what I attained from him teaching us about life… it is difficult to decipher who learned a more valuable lesson.