Kevin Floss

CIS 102

Dr. Coppola

Reflection Paper

I initially signed up for this course as a requirement. I wasn’t entirely sure on what exactly was included in this class, but I had just figured it was like any other ordinary computer class. You learn about different programs, complete short projects, and take a few tests throughout the semester. Wrong. I was surprised when I entered the class and began hearing exactly what we were going to be doing throughout the semester. When Dr. Coppola said we’d be taking trips to United Hebrew Geriatric Center to teach older residents how to use the computer, a few different things went through my head. First being what did I get myself into, and secondly, how enthusiastic could these older seniors be to learn about the computer. After the first visit to UHGC, I realized what this course was going to be about.

The first visit to UHGC was an orientation in which we were shown the three different buildings we’d be conducting classes in. We met a few seniors around in the hallway and they all seemed pleasant and harmless. With a little history on what these people have already been taught, it was easy to see that whoever came up with the saying “you can’t teach an old dog new tricks” is completely wrong. It was exciting to see how much ambition these seniors had about learning new computer programs. For many, it was a first time, which can be scary because of the huge gap in technology between us Pace students and those UHGC seniors.

At the second visit to UHGC, I was paired up with Evelyn Ferris. She had already taken this course with previous Pace students and already had an email account. She has an awesome personality which really relates to my own personality so I was happy to work with her for the next seven weeks. Evelyn had an email account already, but didn’t know exactly how to login and check her new emails. We started off by re-learning her skills of logging in and checking her emails. She had a bunch piled up, so we sifted through them, deleted the junk, and replied to her relative that stays in touch with her through email. During this visit, I also noticed Evie’s right hand didn’t coordinate so well with the mouse.

We switched the mouse to the other side of her computer, and she began using her left hand. To help her get more used to using her left hand on the mouse, I searched on the internet for mouse aerobic programs. She completed a few of those and before we knew it, she was a pro. Evie was interested in shopping and searching the internet for various things. Throughout the weekly visits, I helped her visit certain websites to help her find exactly what she was looking for. She seemed confused at how to navigate through websites but after the first few, she was getting the hang of it. By the end of the course, Evie was a pro at surfing through the internet.

I feel that this course really opened my eyes on the various uses of technology. For me, technology has always been the most updated blackberry, iPod, laptops, and other electronics but I never realized how beneficial a simple computer could be to an older adult. Many adults don’t get to speak or see relatives to often, but they can communicate via email or skype. This course not only gives Pace students a required credit, but gives true meaning to giving back to the community.