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CSIS: Intergenerational computing

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**Reflection Paper**

In today’s society there tend to be a lot of variation. For example, there are variations in cultures, ethics, behaviors, technology and age. Often times these variations tend to cause gaps. In my opinion, two of the most important variations are age and technology, which seemingly go hand in hand. Today’s older generation tend to have a lack of knowledge when it comes to technology. This can have a negative impact being that we live in a world where technology is dominant. Keeping up with change is always vital. It is imperative that we adapt to the changing world around us and put forth all efforts not be left behind.

When I signed up for this course I had not the slightest idea how it would be. To be honest, I thought the class would just be learning in a class room setting. I never thought for a moment the hands on experience that I would have. I remember going to class the first day and listened as the professor introduced the course and provide us with a detained description of what we would be doing, I was hesitant in embarking on what I thought would be a long journey. I was wrong.

When I first went to UHGC it was for orientation, slowly but surely I was beginning to change my mind about the experience. My mind and attitude completing changed when I listened to Lizzie King, a resident at UGHC, talk to the class as we were standing in this small hallway in regards to having someone help her with her computer that she had in her room. It blew my mind. It was right then and there I realized the important and relevance of this course. Despite their age, they have a yearn and a need to learn what us younger generation take for granted.

By the first day of us having to teach the UHGC residents I was so excited. I was anxious to meet everyone and teach them as much as I could. The first day started off rough but that is to be expected. It was baffling to me the little they knew about computers, with the exception of one, none out of the four students knew how to turn the computer on. I found that to be shocking. As time progressed they learned how to turn the computer on, get on to the web, navigate the web, search, and we even had them set up email accounts. The most rewarding moment I had was after we set up their email accounts and they began to email their relatives back and forth. I remember when they received their first set of picture mail. The look on their faces after they opened it up was priceless. They began to show everyone the pictures of their grandchildren. That moment was truly memorable to me.

Prior to taking this course I thought it was of no importance that seniors learn how to use computers. I thought that it was something they would not find to be beneficial to them. Taking this course has really opened my eyes to the relevance of the older generation learning how to use the computers. They view it has more than just surfing the internet or shopping online, to them, it is a means of communicating and staying in contact with friends, family or even people who live hundreds or even thousands of miles away from them.