Sandra Kourouma

Final Reflection Paper

The last several weeks at the Hallmark, has been an eye opening learning and fun experience. When I had first signed up to take this course I had no idea what it was about and didn’t know what to expect. I had just signed up to complete my service learning/civic engagement requirement, I had no idea that the course would turn out to be about so much more. Now I can say that I am more than happy to have signed up for the course and I do not feel the same way about the course as I did at the beginning of the semester. I have matured throughout the course of the semester along with my seniors and I was able to learn from them as much as they were able to learn from me.

At the beginning of the semester I though the classes were going to be boring and I was a little nervous as to how I would go about teaching my seniors. I had the misconception that my seniors weren’t going to be able to follow my instructions during the lessons or accurately process all the information that I was giving them. Those misconceptions quickly changed after the first week of lessons. Especially with Marilyn Amdur, my favorite senior, she quickly changed the misconceptions that I had. For her age Marilyn’s cognitive senses and mobility is very sharp. She is able fast learned and takes initiative. She puts everything that I teach her into practice and asks as many questions needed until she fully understands. During each of our lessons we had an opportunity to sit and chat about life and she was very inspiring. She was really helpful in helping me decipher my career goals and she shared her past teaching experiences with me which I was really grateful for. We became partners in the same learning experience, I was her instructor and in return she became a sort of a mentor figure to me.

My second senior Phoebe Fox was not as advanced as Marylin and in fact had no knowledge of how to use a computer. Phoebe was very distracted and had an abundance of personal issues that she was going through. I’ve never had to deal with anybody who was so emotionally unstable, so I had no idea where to begin with her. Throughout the lessons she was distracted and didn’t comprehend what was being taught the way I would have liked her too. I tried my best to teach her and I truly hope that she retakes the course when she is in a better position in life. She has the potential to master the computer, she just needs to focus and be more dedicated. I do however wish her the best and I hope that things get better for her. Overall, I really didn’t mind teaching her; despite her personal issues she has a great personality and is fun to be around. She also became like a friend to me. Overall I had a great experience in the course and I would recommend that other students take it.