Danny Rosenthal

I have never worked with seniors before, so teaching them how to use the computer was quite an experience. When I first met with them at orientation at the Hallmark, I was surprised that they sought everyone out themselves. What surprised me even more was that after talking to a few seniors, if I couldn’t answer one of their questions simply because I couldn’t understand what they were asking, they would say “oh ok then I need someone who knows what they’re doing”. I found that a lot of the seniors had the same problem on the computer, such as accessing and sending emails, searching for things on the internet, buying things online, and how to type letters up. I had three students, all with the same problems, which made things very easy for me.

Dorothy Leiland, Murray Krim, and Ruth Harris were the three students that I had the pleasure of working with. I found that through the entirety of teaching them, we went over the same things over and over. Which I didn’t mind doing, I just didn’t think it would take that long for them to catch on to something. Usually with each of my students we would begin our lessons buying something online from amazon or eBay, all of them had accounts but were unaware that they did until I came in which I found kind of funny, so I had a lot of password resetting to do for each of them. Only one of my students had grandchildren and kids out of state, so I ended up helping her purchase a webcam and Skype so that she could chat with them, she was so happy about this. I saw a major change in all of my students from beginning to end. Although they had a tough time remembering the steps on how to do certain things, their keyboard strokes and mouse skills improved greatly throughout the semester. Even with step by step instructions typed out by their side when I wasn’t their teaching them, they all told me that the computer doesn’t work properly when I’m not there.

Throughout the semester I observed how old people have such a hard time remembering and understanding how to use the computer without someone by their side, which is why I decided to make an elderly friendly computer manual for my term project. I hope for my manual to be a great success so that the retirement homes and senior centers that I distribute them out to, decide to keep them around for everyone to use.