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Final reflections paper

The past six weeks have been a wonderful experience in my life. I enjoyed every bit of my working with the seniors. At first, I thought I wasn’t going to be able to do it, but as weeks passed by, it became more interesting. It was not just all about teaching them stuff on computer but it was about the communication and the cordial relationship we had together. I gain a lot by teaching them. I also observed that the older people really appreciate the younger people and would always want them to be around.

 My student, Nathaniel Thompson, 92, really appreciated my efforts, patience and commitments towards making him know what he thought he would never know all his life. I won’t say I was a the best of teachers but I think I just loved what I did because it gave me joy to know that I have impacted some knowledge in someone’s life. This gave me some confidence that I was doing something great. In every class sessions, Nathaniel would try to put in his best; he was always very attentive and would want to try doing everything I showed him. He actually had some challenges holding the mouse due to the way his hands were always shaking and he was not able to see the letters on the keyboard clearly. So typing was a very big challenge for him. But in all these, I tried encouraging him that he could do it and so he kept trying and trying until he could type a line of sentence.

His best interest was in sending emails to his god daughter whose name he told me was Mary Weir. He seems to love her so much because he was always talking about her almost all the time we met and he used her name as his password on his hotmail account. But he couldn’t really type out the messages he had wanted to send to her, so I had to help him do that. He would always check his mail box before we begin every class and this made me know that he was really interested in email communication than any other aspect of the computer.

In general, I noticed changing over the weeks. The seniors also became friendlier, they were willing to joke around more freely, and they felt comfortable. I believe that being comfortable is one of the most valuable feelings in the world. Simply by the way they held their heads from the day they first walked in, to the last teaching class, you could tell there was a completely different mood in the room. Although, many of the seniors preferred having a tutor one on one, and the same tutor every class, they were not afraid, but were encouraged, to ask other tutors for help if they could not understand something. At times I had to sit in between two students so I can help them out with any thing they needed help with.

Computer may look very easy for us when we are working on it but when it comes to teaching others, especially the old seniors; it is not as easy as we thought because they know nothing on computer and so the computer world is totally strange to them. The more you explain to them on how it works, the more complicated things seems to be for them and some of them may want to withdraw thinking that they are never going to be able to do it. My advice to anyone that would want to take this task is that he/she should be very patient, explore more on computer basics and try not to explain too many things at the same time.

Everything went quite interesting. I would love to do more if I have another opportunity.