Intergenerational Computing Reflective Paper – Samantha Seminario

I must admit that when I first started this class it was not under my own free will. During registration I had spoken to a counselor who told me that every student loved this class and because I knew I was required to take an AOK course I agreed to enroll. At first I loved the idea of being able to teach the seniors how to do activities that we were very familiar with but as time went by I started to change my mind. I felt like the place I was working at was not run like other centers. I kept hearing about “the Hallmark” this and that and it made me feel like St. Charles was not good enough.

As the semester progressed I felt less and less enthralled with the class I was overwhelmed with all of my other classes. I really resented the fact that the tests did not reflect what we were really doing with our seniors. I am not a computer major or anything to do with computers. My major is international marketing and learning about the bus and this port and that port did not spark my interest. I wish the tests had been about what we were learning from the interactions with these people. I felt like when I took the tests it was so hard for me to remember every little detail. We were not tested on general ideas but instead definitions and specific facts. Anyway I managed to not score below and 80 which made me feel somewhat accomplished. I know that I did not do too well in keeping up with my homework but it just seemed like so much and as soon as I fell behind on one it was like a snowball.

As much as I enjoyed time at my center I wish I had gotten to speak to you [Dr. C] more often. Although you were great at keeping in touch I wish I had been able to speak to you about everything that was going on at my meetings. I can tell you really enjoyed hearing our stories and during the final project I could tell you loved seeing what we had taken away.

Now that I have looked over some of the things that I did not really LOVE, I want to speak about Lois Hedlund. Lois was the senior that I began to teach. She had been there the first day I was working at St. Charles Jubilee and she was advanced which impressed me. All semester I worked on setting up a website for her center and I know I will continue. Lois has been caring and loyal and most importantly she has taught me!

I think that the most important lesson I have learned from this class is that you cannot go into a situation with an outline and think that what you have is the only way to go. We received senior curriculums outlining what to teach each week and although it may work for some it did not for me. Instead I learned that we must work to gain an insight into what our student really wants to achieve. Lois had bigger plans than our curriculum and she inspired me to work hard as well. I know she can describe me as persistent and I love knowing that I didn’t give up.

I liked learning about myself through this course and I loved learning about Lois. I have always loved my grandma but after hearing some of the stories that the seniors shared I am making it a point to make my grandma feel special every day. I find it so hard to believe that some people who would not be anywhere without the hard work of their mothers and fathers, quickly forget to show their love and care through real emotions and not just money.

Overall I would recommend this class to other students but I would tell them to pay attention to the relationships they develop and leave the textbook aside. I learned a lot from this class about interactions and I think that is more important than any number of definitions.