Anastasia Foss

Professor Coppola

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Reflective Essay

This semester I was coming into the class with no expectations. All I wanted was to fulfill my requirement and be done with the AOK classes. However, when I first came to class and got all of these awesome introductions from people that worked with elderly person, my outlook on this class changed. I came to class with knowledge of how to use a computer but not how to teach other people how to use a computer. I remember the first requirement was to work with someone of other generation that we knew, but since I had my whole family in California I thought that this class was not going to work out. I even considered dropping it altogether but when I talked to Professor Coppola, she said that she would help me figure something out. A nice lady came over to speak with us about an opportunity for those who did not have anybody to test their skills on before going to our assigned elderly homes. I gave her my email and she wrote to me that night giving me all the details and asking me questions about what it is I needed to do. Then and there we exchanged information and set up our first class. I was nervous, very nervous because I did not know what it was exactly that I needed to do and I was about to speak to elderly people I did not even know. When I saw the couple, I was confused because I was told that I needed to work with one person but since both of them were there I told myself, why not help both. They were the nicest couple I have ever met. They were very nice and patient. The husband was always curious and kept asking me questions which was easier for me because I did not know how to do anything. The wife was just adorable. She was very shy so I had to ask her about what it is she wanted to learn about. The first few lessons were a little hard because I was just starting out and prior to this I was not a big fan of elderly persons. However, I got through the first few classes and was actually looking forward to it since then the whole week. It was nice to finally have a class that I truly liked and was learning something in. The husband was very talkative and he told me a few things I didn’t even know. I also learned a few things about computers because they asked me the simplest questions and I couldn’t believe I didn’t know the answers. I used a mac almost my entire life so using a PC was a little more challenging. For example, even finding a home button was hard but I figured out that the little house was it and showed them. The husband was so happy to find the easy way. Overall I had a lot of fun with these elderly people. I tried my best in teaching them how to use a computer and I would like to say I succeeded. I liked the idea of having a blog and putting up updates about what went on with my lessons. I liked the fact that I could get my experience out on paper, or more like a blog, and let other people knows how these lessons influenced my everyday life.

My next assignment was to work with the two adorable elderly persons from the Hallmark, Naomi and Minnie. At first I was kind of scared because I was starting this all over again. I got so comfortable with my other two elderly persons that starting all over again felt impossible. I was intimidated by all of them. However, when I had my first lesson I was taking aback by the amount of information they already knew about computers. Because my other couple didn’t know anything about how to operate a computer. I was so relieved and happy that I could help them understand some things better that I started to enjoy the lessons quicker. They were both very nice to me and I was trying to be as patient as possible. It is very hard to learn something knew at that age so I took that into consideration. They asked me a lot of questions about the same thing and I did not mind answering them but it got so repetitive that I need to stop myself for a few minutes and say to myself, Ana be patient, imagine how you would feel if you were in their shoes. It didn’t take me long to get acquainted with them and to understand them. I was having a lot of fun even learning a little about their lives.

Overall this experience was very memorable for me. I enjoyed this and will definitely recommend the class to anyone that asks me. It was a lot of fun.