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Reflection Paper

 This semester went by extremely fast and I feel that was partly because this class was like nothing I’ve ever been part of before. To be completely honest, I entered this class thinking it was an average computer class but after the first class I learned I was wrong. With that said, even after the first class I was a little confused on what we would be doing but this made things very exciting and different for me.

 In reflecting on what the semester was to me, I will start with the opportunity to formally teach my grandmother how to better use her computer. This was something I’ve done a few times before but have never sat down for an entire hour straight and helped her tackle a specific task. It was a truly great experience because not only did I help her use the computer better but more importantly, spent quality time with her on the weekends. I helped my Nana with everything from iTunes to pictures to anti-virus software. She is very familiar with computers so this was not a difficult task at all and also didn’t test my patience as much as I expected.

 Next I will touch on the experience of which I got to tutor Helen and Ruth from the Hallmark senior living center. This really was an amazing experience and by far my favorite of the class. Initially I was hesitant to this idea of choosing a senior, going to the apartment of the seniors, and visiting them both weekly for an hour. It was a bit uncomfortable at first and I can definitely say I would have never tried this if this class had not pushed me to. With that said, I actually loved the fact that I could help these people so easily but they appreciated it so greatly. Above all, I am glad that, for the first time, I got a chance to do a “community service” of sorts. I will unquestionably continue to give my time in ways like this whenever possible. Helen and I spoke and will continue once in a while with a lesson whenever she likes. I even applied to an internship with a non-profit organization and am in the interview process now. I can only hope for that charitable experience to be as pleasant as this class.

 Last major component was the term project. This was a project unlike one that I have ever been part of (seems to be a theme of this class ha). This project was not one that you could sit on the computer for a few hours and complete it before it was due. My group and I needed to constantly think of ways to help the Hallmark and Henry St. and meet up often to implement our ideas. It was really a difficult experience because of the size of our group. Not only was the size a factor but the nature of our work was also an obstacle. This was a very independent project but we tied everything together by the end to unite our work in a presentable fashion. I took the role of administrator/organizer, which basically meant compile all the information we gathers throughout the semester and make sense of it all.

As a group both separately and together, we visited the residences frequently to transform them into an easier workspace. We felt that seniors had enough difficulty learning/working with computers so the last thing they needed was an unorganized, inefficient and outdated computer lab. We did everything from restoring computers, donating parts and organizing the equipment we had to work with. This was another irreplaceable experience that not only taught me much about group work but computers as well. I feel like we made a real change in the facilities we visited and can only hope our work is appreciated. Our facebook page and website will hopefully kick start next semesters groups to make their project even more successful than ours.

Overall this class was by far the most interesting, diverse and motivating I have taken in a very long time. I appreciate the opportunity to get involved in things that not only helped others but also helped myself grow as a person. I made some great friends in this class and in the senior living homes as well which made this class that much better. Like I said in the beginning of the paper, this class was very different that I expected but I couldn’t be happier with the outcome and had a great time along the way.