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Final Reflection Paper

At the end of last semester I was trying to make my schedule for this current spring term and decided to fulfill my AOK 3 requirement. When I was looking through the courses that met this requirement one course caught my eye. I have always been interested in computers and I enjoy using them and this class had a very interesting description. Before I began taking this class my Grandma had been begging me to teach her to use the computer. After the passing of my Grandpa my Grandmother was very lonely and wanted something to pass the time when my family was not over her house. She thought since my brothers and I spend so much time on the computer that maybe she could pass the time on the computer as well. When I learned that this CIS course included teaching seniors to use the computer I thought it was funny that there was a course that required students to do the same thing that my Grandma wanted me to do and I decided that I would really enjoy it.

At the beginning of this course I knew that I was going to be teaching older adults to use to the computer but I was not aware of how much I was going to learn from it. Throughout the past few weeks I have set up email accounts for several seniors and I have taught them how to surf the internet and find new and exciting things to pass the time. While teaching the seniors I also learned a lot about each of their lives. One of my students, Shirley has a lot of family that lives in California and because she does not feel comfortable traveling far distances at her age she has not been able to see her great grandchildren. She was so excited to set up an email account and be able to receive pictures from them and see the babies. I think it is so amazing that the seniors do not have to miss out on things in life just because of their age. I really enjoyed being able to teach Shirley and make her capable of being able to become more involved in her family’s life. Another one of my students, Ethel is in her 90’s and has experienced a lot in her life. When I first began working with her she told me that she had just moved into Willow Towers this past summer and she was very surprised by the number of people who were not fully aware of everything that was going on around them. Although she is in her 90’s Ethel still has her brain and she has good eyesight. Ethel was alive during the Civil Rights Act and shared with me some of her memories of it. When she was 14 years old there was a trial going on accusing several young black men of raping a white woman, Ethel told me she knew the boys were innocent and she went around collecting money for their lawyer fees. I thought that story was so amazing. I couldn’t believe that at 14 years old Ethel was so strong and so involved. Ethel really inspired me to become more active and more involved in the things that are going on around me.