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Personal Reflections from ePortfolio: AHRC New York City

Tali Altholz
Pace University

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Tali Altholz

My Biography: What I am bringing to AHRC

Hello, I am Tali Altholz. Junior at the Lubin school of Business. I transferred from Hofstra university in the spring semester. I am so happy at Pace. I am currently studying for my BBA and MBA for public accounting. And will graduate in two years. I cannot wait to start working as an accountant.

I have been involved in a volunteering organization called Jcorps for about two years. At Jcorp we prepare soup kitchens, and go to senior centers where we communicate, draw and play. I like this a lot because i dont have my grandparents in USA and it reminds me a little bit of them. Although it is very hard to do this kind of work, it is extremely rewarding.

Previous to this I have volunteered at an old age home in Israel. I made a close friend there, in particular i made a bond with one older gentleman and we would play backgammon everytime i came there. I liked it there because the people were always so happy and excited to see us come in and interact.

I am very excited and looking forward to be interacting with Scott, and to get to know more people in our class.

Me



My Friends in the Course at Pace

The people I work with are Malissa and Carlos. I get along with the two very well they seem understanding and helpful.

We all try to engage in each others interaction with the AHRC individuals. We all have fun with it and when i dont know what to ask or talk about i listen to what my peers are working on and get inspired by their conversations.

I did ask to take a picture with my camera but that is against their policy. We will be able to take pictures next week when the AHRC camera will be available to us.

Mallisa and Tali



My Friends at AHRC NYC.

I have interacted with Sascha and Bonnie who are very helpful.

They come in every few minutes to check if everything is going well, and if we need any kind of assistance.

They are available to talk to anytime.

The first time i came to AHRC and was introduced to Bonnie she was more than helpful. She gave me her business card and offered any kind of help or advice giving, which i found very helpful and very nice.

We still interact quiet often, since her office is right next to the computer room. She comes by and gives us assistance.

Bonnie Mallisa Tali



My Project at AHRC NYC

My project with Scott is really coming along. We have a main idea about the theme. Scott is really into the Beatles and loves their music.

Therefore we have posted most of the slides about them. In addition to that we also wrote about himself and his family as an introduction.

I have asked Scott to bring some pictures of his family and Sasha said she found some nice pictures of him and his parents.

She was able to put them on the USB drive for me, so i can work on it next week. I am very excited about that since Scott doesn't tell me much about his parents, i will be able to see their faces and maybe have so more things to talk about with Scott.

Scott was able to list all of his favorite songs of the Beatles so far on his own. We would love to incorporate music along with the presentation, if thats not possible, Bonnie offered to have the music play in the background.

Special technology uses

Scott and I have been working on the computer for the past three meetings. He seems to love it and is able to express himself through it.

I find that it is easier for me to understand him when he is typing, which by the way he does flawlessly. He can really type out what's on his mind.

Sometimes we will start with a title and then he would write about his weekend, which gives me more details about his life.

Once in a while I will just tell him "why don't you tell the world what your favorite songs are" and let him come up with names and lines. And he will come up with it on his own. At first I was surprised that he was able to do so, but now I just realize that typing is an amazing tool to communicate. Even for me, it is easier to bring ideas together over typing rather than talking.

My Mid-Term Reflection Journal

As I was reading "Disability Land" there were some stories and quotes that struck me very much. One of them was "A family returned a dog to the shelter because he could not hear. Their child was deaf"

The book talks a lot about the help and inspiration they received from Apple. Especially the computer. I liked the one story in particular; The author was at an event of Apple, they had just presented a new idea. This idea was to assist disabled people with the use of computer to express themselves.

Apple first presented it and everyone in the room was impressed, besides the people who were disabled, and the author. When she realized that as well, she dared Apple to a few trials. Such as typing with a pen in the mouth (making him feel like he has no arms), or typing with weights on your finger, also without the lights. This is just to show Apple how much further they have to think. And how many other things they have to readjust if they really want to be the best.

They did try using the computer with these obstacles and were unsuccessful. One was even complaining about the lights being off, saying he wouldn't be able to see where the power button is. This was exactly the point of the author.

Another very interesting story that struck me was, when one of the authors was at another event, one she was hosting. She had taken care of everything disabled people need. She had a bar that was accessible to people in wheel chairs, and had the entrance wide open for access.

As she is enjoying her party and judging the crowd, she realizes there are two groups that otherwise would have never met. The rich and the disabled is how she categorized them. She thought how wonderful it is, and that she thought of everything to accommodate everyone in the room. Along comes a gentleman, he was one of "the rich" group and complains that she had disregarded his disability.

She looked at him stunned and did not understand what the problem was. He took her over to the bar and told her, "i have diabetes, how am i supposed to drink these sugary to drink?!" The bar only had sugary drinks and the gentleman wasn't able to enjoy like everyone else. She had not paid attention to other needs; such as diabetes.

These two stories i thought are somewhat ironic. The two situations apple and the author, meant to do only good, but still did not manage to accommodate everyone all the time, although they thought they were giving everyone the same opportunity and fun.

Towards the middle of the book, is a chapter titled "Just Ask". The author writes about how the doctors always give her half answers and would never explain further.

They quoted one conversation of a Mother and a Doctor about the Son. The conversation wasn't much of a conversation. The doctor tells the mom that her son has a serious illness and it needs to be treated. So the mother asks, "but what kind of illness" the doctor "its complicated, and you wouldn't understand" the mother "but why is it complicated, just tell me..." This went on and on.

The mother never got her answer. I think it is so important ask these questions. Even if you feel like you're being annoying or overstaying your welcome. We need to be informed of our families situations. Never trust blindly. No one will have better intentions than a parent, therefore they need to be 100% informed and involved.

Last meeting.

At first it was very difficult to interact with Scott, so for the first week or two I just wanted to get to know him, as a person and as my class partner.

What we did was we sat together by the AHRC computer room on the lower ground.

I let him play on the computer by himself; because Bonnie told me sometimes it is easier for him to express himself by typing, which I let him do and this is very true about Scott.

I sometimes can feel that he understands exactly what I'm saying, asking or expecting him to do, and he understands but I see that it is impossible for him to express this in words, so he types.

That is also he I got to know about his passion of The Beatles. When he got permission to play freely he went on YouTube and searched for the Beatles. His favorite song is Help.

When I saw that he keeps playing music of the Beatles I knew that is what his presentation needs to be about them.

So what we did on the project is, we started of introducing Scott by showing pictures of him together with his family and some pictures of him with friends.

We put labels on the title to show the viewers who he is with.

The picture he liked best was the one of him and his mom when they were younger and I liked it a lot too. So we decided to put that picture as the front page.

After we introduced Scott, Scott's family and friends; we went in depth with the Beatles.

Scott is very gifted, he knew what we were doing. Every time typing was involved he typed it up. I think he really likes typing.

Exactly what we did is, we sit down by the computer open ppt, put Beatles music in the background and start working. He was very aware of what we were doing and what the assignment was.

Referring back to Scott's typing, sometimes I will try to talk to him and ask questions. Now I learned that when that doesn't work, I just type a title to a box, such as "my hobbies" and he will be able to list them all.

I know the ppt doesn't look very impressive to a person who wasn't involved in this project, but it was very important to me that everything that was going to be in the slides is his and only his.

He chose the color scheme, fonts and placements of pictures etc...

The relationship with Scott made me much more patient and understanding. I came in this program thinking it was a web design class, little did I know this will be one of the best and most rewarding classes I will ever take.

The best thing was to bond with Scott, Bonnie and the other students that were at the facility with me, at the same time.

Of course the Yankee stadium tour was just incredible, and to be able to have done that with Scott made it so much more special,

What I learned about Scott, is mostly the typing as I have mentioned before. I also learned that he has a great relationship with his mother, she brings him to AHRC every single day.

I got to meet her a couple of times and she just seems like a great personality, very optimistic.

What I will remember most about AHRC is that with patient and understanding everyone is possible.

I truly had a great time working with Scott and all the other people working there. It is definitely the best class in pace and I am so thankful I coincidentally fell on that class, even though the class description doesn't match the class I am so happy to have done this.

The most amazing thing was, after we presented the ppp. Bonnie gave me a thank you card with Scott's signature at the bottom. I was very happy to have gotten that and to see that people actually care and do things for others. I did tell Bonnie that I'm coming to visit, which I will because I hate goodbyes. I have and will recommend this AOK class to everyone.

My Other Service During or Since Semester – What I Have Been Doing in Service

I have been working for Dr. Lawler's "Catch a dream Project". We mentor young high-school students. We meet once a week and have conversations with them and we try to find out what they like and don't like. The end result is similar to this program.

We have to make a personal based presentation about the individual's favorite things.

Also I am still involved with Jcorp, which is a Jewish volunteering group.

The meetings are once a week, and we do all kinds of different things. One time we went to a senior center and played with them, we did puzzles and necklaces. Another time we gave out food for low income citizens.

What I also do is, I am a note taker for an anonymous student in my class at Pace university.