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ENC1145

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Final Reflection

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I remember the first day of this class as if it was yesterday. I walked into a classroom that was just so unnecessarily big with maybe only twenty kids that were in attendance. When I signed up for ENC1145 I knew I was going into a special topics class, but I had no idea what the special topic was going to be on. What I was hoping for like my colleague and dear pal Tristan was, well the Harry Potter class. To my initial disappointment though I did not get into that class. Instead what I was in was Writing about Public Service and Community Action, whatever that was. At first I did not know if this class would be for me. The kid that sat next to me on the first day got up and left and I remember so clearly that he whispered right before he left, “follow me.” I considered it, but now I am glad I did not follow him. After that first day of class where you explained the course material and what we would be doing, everything else that happened was expected. I was especially excited to learn that one of the places that we would be allowed to volunteer at was the Boys and Girls Club. I had had experience with working at the Boys and Girls Club back home so the thought of volunteering at one up in this new area I was not too familiar with was really something I anticipated. So when I was chosen after the Placement Request, you could guess my excitement.

When I began volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club of the Big Bend I knew what to expect but I gained and learned so many new things that I did not think was possible. When working with kids what you really have to be is patient. No matter what is happening everything that is going on is important and patience when dealing with that is the key. It was not all work though. Actually it was barely any work at all. If you consider fun work then sure, I was working the whole time I volunteered. I feel as though if I had volunteered anywhere else I would have done just strenuous busy work, but at the Boys and Girls Club all you really did was have fun. I would help out the children who were doing their homework and then play outside for the remainder of my volunteer time. Even outside I would have a great time. I was essentially only liked because I gave so many piggyback rides, but it was fun and I was okay with it.

Volunteering up here in Tallahassee really gave me insight and knowledge into the lives these children live. Most come from homes of a low socioeconomic background and some from single-parent households. It was real interesting seeing the way these children dealt with it at such a young age. Not only that but it is as though these children are less privileged all around. It was not until I met Willie that I realized this. I was tutoring him for the better part of an hour and he just could not focus and really comprehend the simple math that he was attempting to do. Now I am not saying that I am a genius by any means, but at his age I could in fact add and subtract. It just shows you how much these children go through and the many more obstacles they have to overcome.

The children at the Boys and Girls really taught me how different everyone is. Not one person grew up the same and you should feel blessed to have lived the life you have. This class overall was one of the few that I truly enjoyed. I expected it to be a lot more like English classes that I have taken in the past, but it was far from it. I would not change the way it was taught at all because if it were my experience would be nowhere near as enjoyable as it was. I not only gained knowledge from the class itself, but also learned so much from children that I never knew was possible.