The mentoring process began, for me, as one girl’s wish to take an art class.

Kassiea Adams is a home-schooled student who unfortunately misses out on secondary education such as art and music. Kassy is a very bright eleven year old student who does well in all subject areas, but wants to focus her attention on art because she loves to draw and paint. As an art education student, I was approached by Kassy’s mother with the offer of working with Kassy so that she doesn’t miss out on art just because she is home-schooled. This proposal did not offer payment, only a chance for a young girl to do what she loves.

Preparing for Kassy’s class time was a little tough because I did not know the art background that she did achieve when she attended the public school system. Kassy and I spent our first day together examining what she knew and then built upon that. We began with basic line drawing and drawing terminology. Next, I introduced Kassy to the world of shading with pencil and charcoal. I expressed to Kassy the importance of learning to use a ruler, and I performed many demonstrations. I also introduced Kassy to color. We began our exploration of color by learning the color wheel and then duplicating it using primary colored pastels. Kassy was a natural at color. I also introduced her to oil pastels. Kassy was very much encouraged to give me feedback on everything we were doing and to make suggestions for what she may want to do.

Practicing art, as I found out, is a lengthy, time-consuming adventure. It takes time to learn concepts and achieve the desired level of perfection for each piece.

I have really enjoyed the time that I spent with Kassy. Kassy was a great student, with lots of potential. I have learned many things working with her over the past few weeks. Planning is definitely a very important and essential step in the teaching process,
as well as an assessment of the student’s needs and educational background. Hopefully
Kassy enjoyed herself as much as I did.