“In the world we live in, our everyday actions depend to a great extent on our ability to read. We are always reading, often without even being aware of it: We read traffic signs, recipes, words on a TV screen, and billboard advertisements. Surrounded by the printed word, many of us often take reading for granted. We come to think of our reading habits and skills as fixed, unchangeable parts of ourselves.” I found that quote in The Student Handbook, Volume 3.

Illiteracy is a problem facing people today; it is a very important issue.

There are many causes for the problem of illiteracy. Some children have no support at home, maybe their parents cannot read and therefore they have no one to teach them, or support them. Sometimes parents just don’t pay enough attention to their children, they don’t care whether they succeed or not. Teachers pass some children, knowing they cannot read, but don’t want to take the time to correct the problem, so they send them on to another teacher. There are many different reading/learning problems, such as dyslexia, Attention deficit disorder, etc. that go unnoticed. And also there are people who are in their 70’s that never learned to read because back in that time, there wasn’t a demand for literacy.
I realized these problems and decided that I would do my part and join the Literacy Coalition at CSC. I am a certified literacy tutor. To become a tutor you must train 12 hours in class, and 4 hours in workshops. 16 hours total. With the assistance of a Literacy tutor, some of these people can be taught to read.

Illiteracy is serious, and it does affect many Americans. According to the National Adult Literacy survey, there are 40 million Americans age 16 and older who have significant literacy needs. More than 20% of adults read at or below a 5th grade level which is far below what is needed to earn a living wage. 70% of that 40 million people have no job or are only part-time employees.

Also in the book “The state of Literacy in America” I found that 20% of Illinois residents are at the lowest level of literacy, and 16% of those people live in Knox County. This shows you how close to home illiteracy really is.

Adult literacy is a serious matter facing Americans today, the ability to read is something that should not be taken for granted.