# Closing the Loop on a Quality Improvement Project: A Peer Tutoring Program for Nursing Students

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Introduction

Nursing programs want their students to succeed! Initiatives for success should be subjected to continuous quality improvement in order to justify their expense. Faculty planned, implemented and studied a peer tutoring initiative.

Now, the peer tutoring coordinator is closing the loop on a quality improvement cycle. **The current focus for improvement is on peer tutor training** (Wilson, 2017).
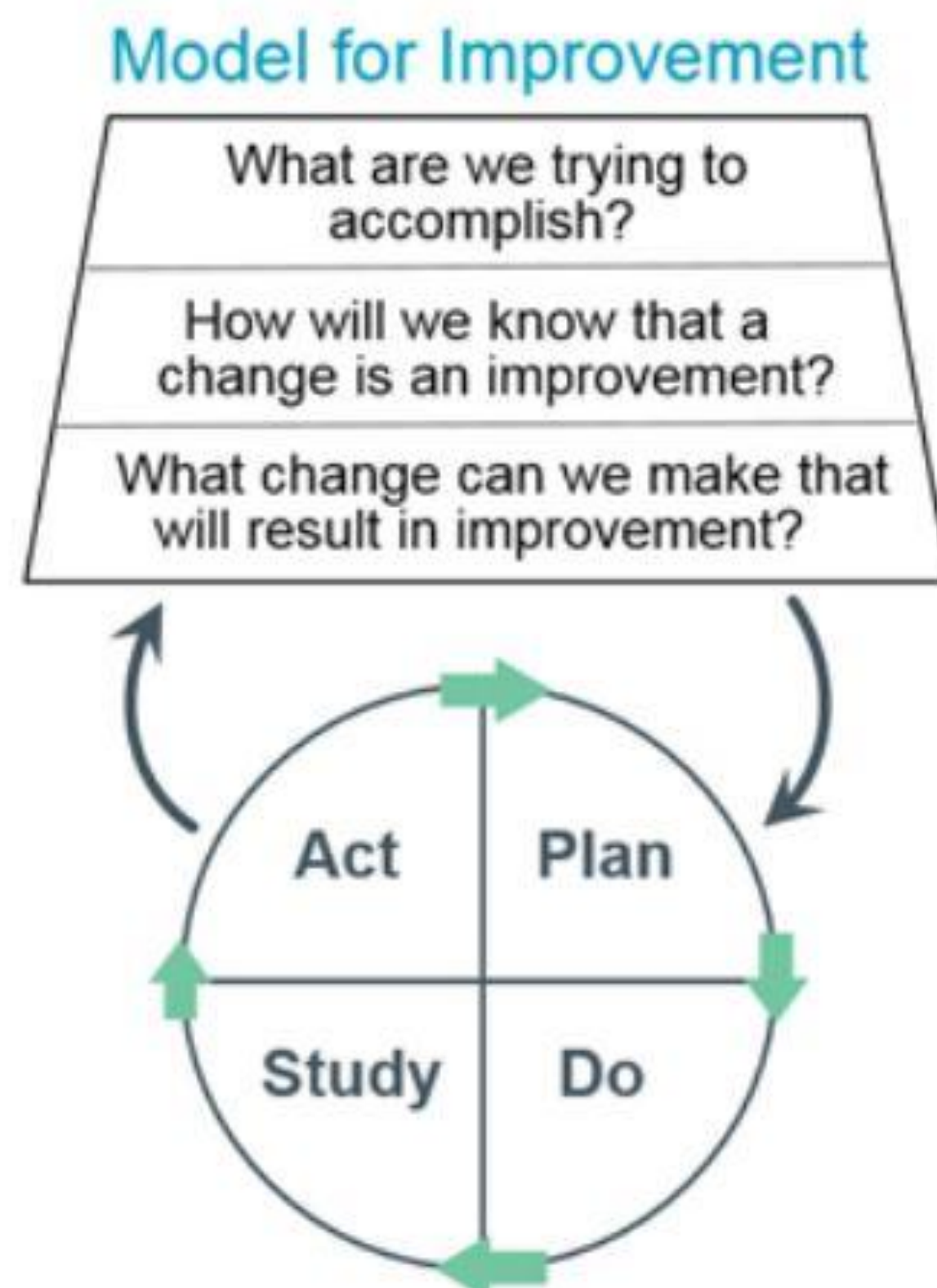
The Model for Improvement was developed by Associates in Process Improvement (Institute for Healthcare Improvement, 2017)
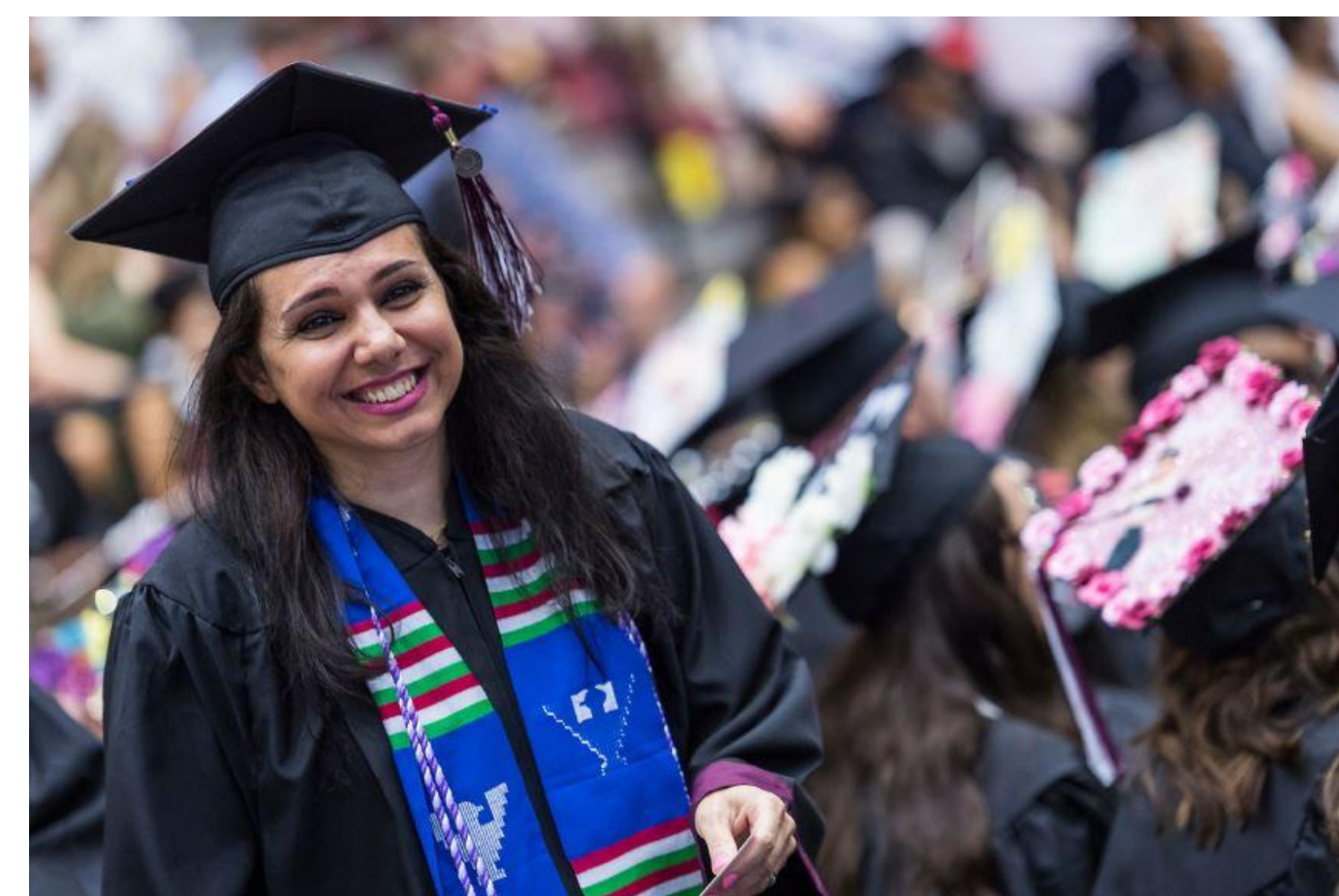
Revised Format for Training

A full day of training takes place at the beginning of each semester for new and returning tutors. In addition, the coordinator provides monthly reminders and tips for incorporating active learning strategies when working with students.

The new format also includes modeling active teaching and learning strategies throughout the training process. Active learning strategies "produce stronger learning and retention…than passive learning strategies" (Brown, Roediger & McDaniel, 2014).

The coordinator, education experts, and the tutors themselves present various topics during the training.

Some active learning strategies used in our training include:

- **Role play**
- **Snowball fight**
- **Leader-learner-videographer**

Revised Content for Training

Revised content includes training in classroom technology and testing strategies. In addition, the Beta Beta chapter of Sigma agreed to purchase nine NCLEX review books for use by the tutors in the program to reinforce their ability to guide problem solving.

The coordinator included information on peer tutoring ethics.

In addition, a guest speaker and science educator emphasized teaching strategies for learner engagement such as lift-off and think-pair-share (Tanner, 2013). She also demonstrated Foldables (Zike, 2002) with the tutors, and each crafted one of their own during the session.
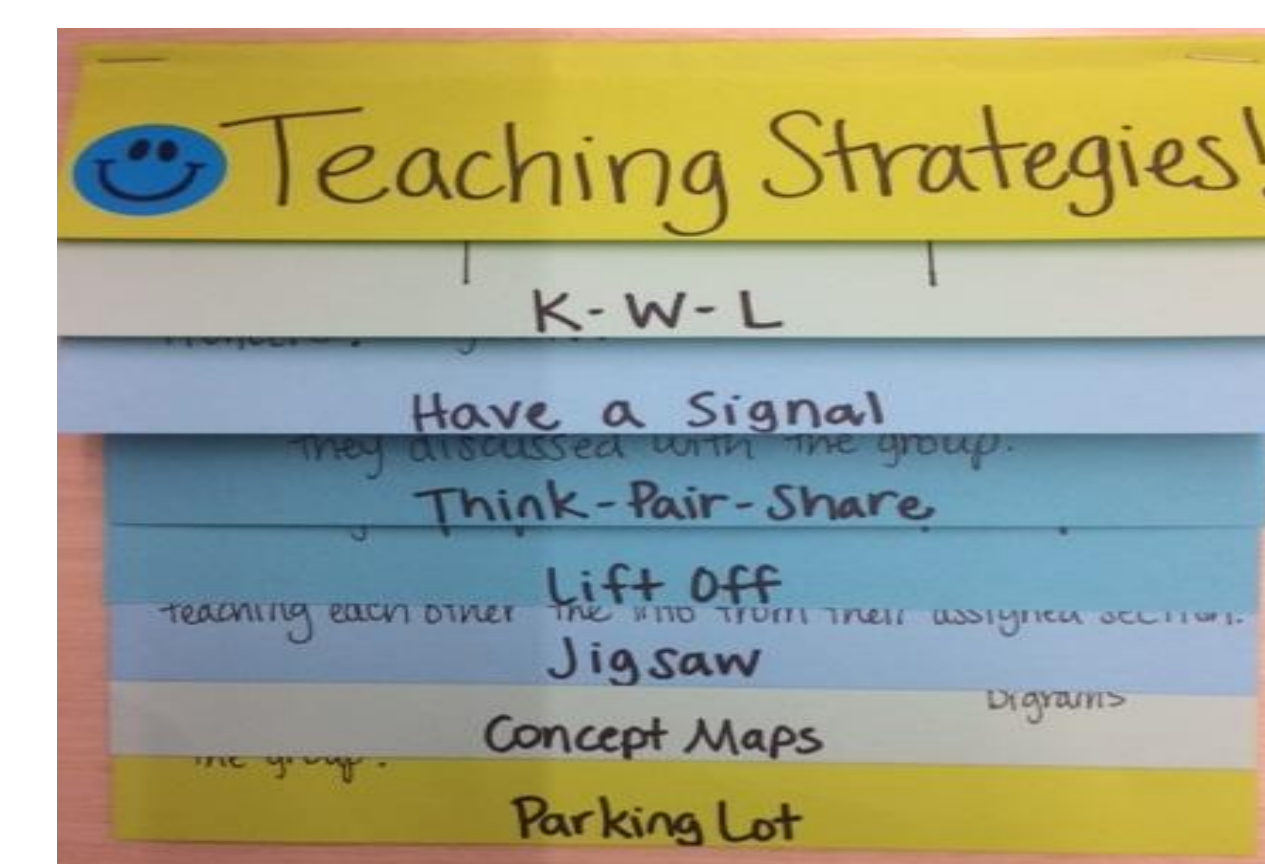
Tools that restructure information in a memorable way can make long term connections to content:

- **Foldables**
- **Charts**
- **Mnemonics**

Conclusions

Tutors gave written feedback on the helpfulness of the revised training.

"Orientation was helpful, especially the ideas on how to engage students"

The tutors *strongly agreed* that the orientation sessions on testing strategies, classroom technology, and tutoring ethics were helpful.

References

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