



Reflective Journaling: Using a Blog with Undergraduate Senior Practicum Nursing Students

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Disclosure

- Presenter – Indra Hershon PhD, RN, CNE
- Learner Objectives:
 1. The learner will be able to discuss how the advancement in technologies impact students learning.
 2. The learner will be able to develop a blog for nursing students.
- There is no conflict of interest with my employer Barry University. This presentation was funded by Medical Practitioner Healthsystems Incorporated (MPH Inc.) and partially funded by Barry University.



21st Century Learners



Teaching Strategies



- Lecture
- Case Study
- One Minute Paper
- Questioning – Students Response System
- Short Stories
- Film
- Video clips
- Podcast
- Novels
- Music
- Poetry
- Reflection
- Games
- Web Resources- websites, blogs, wiki, podcasts
- Story-telling
- Concept Map



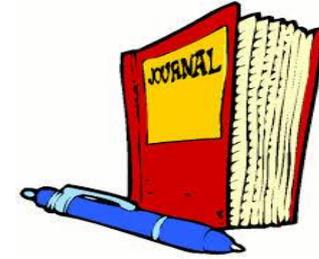
Reflection and Reflective Learning



- Reflection is defined self-awareness of one's own repertoire of knowledge and skills in combination with present circumstances to form new understanding (Schon, 1987).
- Reflective learning is the process of internally examining and exploring an issue of concern, triggered by an experience, which creates and clarifies meaning in terms of self, and which results in a changed conceptual perspective (Boyd & Wales, 1983).



Journaling



- Journaling is useful in providing insight into self-awareness - what you do (behaviors), why you do it (values, assumptions, aspirations) how you feel (emotions), and how you think.
<http://www.webguru.neu.edu/undergraduate-research/structuring-your-experience/reflective-journaling>
- The word journal will typically elicit a common groan from the class.
- Web-based technology - Blog



What is a Blog?



- Online personal journal.
- A shortened form for “weblog”.
- Individual articles on a blog are referred to as “blog posts”, “posts”, or “entries”.
- “Blogger” - the person creating the blog post.
- Organized by date, like a diary or journal.
- Blogs create a new opportunity for learning, teaching, and assessment.



Blogs in Education

- Blogs supports collaborative learning that enrich learning performance both for individual knowledge construction and group knowledge sharing (Yang, 2009).
- Blogs afford students the opportunity to share their ideas and to provide each other with feedback (Yang, 2009).
- Blogs are not just a one-way presentation of personal opinions, events, or interests; they can also be an interactive medium for a community (Roland et al., 2011).
- Blogs can be a useful means for nurse educators to communicate with students and facilitating effective group collaboration in clinical.



Creating a Blog on Blackboard

Under the Control Panel, on the bottom left side of the page, click on **Course Tools** and then click on **Blogs**.



Click on the **Create Blog** button.

Fill in the title and instructions for the blog. Also, set the availability of the blog.



Participants



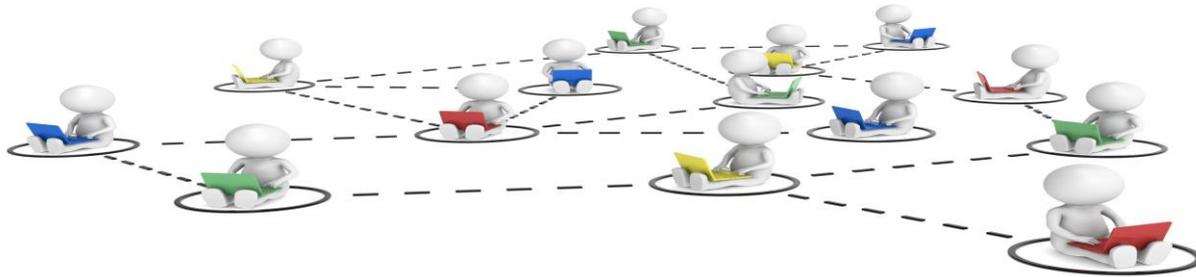
- 13 Undergraduate nursing students
- Senior Practicum
- Three (3) different clinical sites
- Weekly Clinical Objectives - Directions:

For each clinical week write personal learning objectives. Critique your ability to meet each objective as *partially met*, *fully met*, or *not met*. Reflect on your learning for the week and provide a summary about why you rated yourself as you chose and provide examples which support your self-assessment. Discuss your objectives with your preceptor and follow his/her recommendations.



Method

- Each week students wrote and critiqued their clinical objectives.
- Blogs were read by the instructor and feedback provided.
- At the end of the four weeks students completed a survey questionnaire.



Blog Post



 **Clinical** 

Posted by 

On March 17, I began my clinical rotation at  Hospital in the telemetry unit working the day shift. My objective for the first week was to get a better understanding of the unit, the clinical preceptor, and the staffs. My first day consisted of a tour of the unit and a review of the computer system. Furthermore, I really enjoyed my second and third day of my clinical because I had the opportunity to engaged in many hands-on activities. My clinical perceptor is very informative, and she also seeks out learning opportunities for me. I believe that my goals were met for the first week, and I am looking forward to demonstrating more of my skills next week.



Findings

- Participants strongly preferred the online blog versus completing the written assignment at the end of the rotation.
- All participants (100%) felt that the blog served as a tool to communicate with the instructor.
- Able to connect with their peers.
- Quick and easy.
- Able to share the clinical experiences with their peers.
- Received feedback from instructor.



Reflective Journaling



 **Tonia: Week 3** 

Posted by 

This week at I was very busy! The days flew by with out patient load reaching in the 60's! This fast pace helped me get into the routine and I began doing nursing tasks without even thinking about it. I also got to successfully maintain children's airways while pulling out their oropharangeal airways by listening to their breath sounds and waiting for their gag reflex to return. Also this week I got to see a cardiac cath with an ablation. It was interesting to see the ECG change from SVT to normal sinus on the monitor and to see how the physician cuts the ectopic circuit. Another event that stood out this week was setting up a PCA pump. The nurse that assisted me in this started off by telling me "I'm just going to watch you think through this without me telling you what to do." I was a bit nervous because I did not want to waste any tubing or meds, but she told me that I could not really mess this up. So I used my critical thinking and thought through the process successfully. She mentioned to me that no other floor really does this, so this was a once in a while experience which I was happy to take on. I feel like there were a lot of younger ones this week, and they love to be held and fed as soon as they wake up, so this week was full of rocking and snuggling, which I did not mind! I honestly do not think I could imagine working with any other population than children. It feels so rewarding!

 **Comments: 2**

[Comment](#)

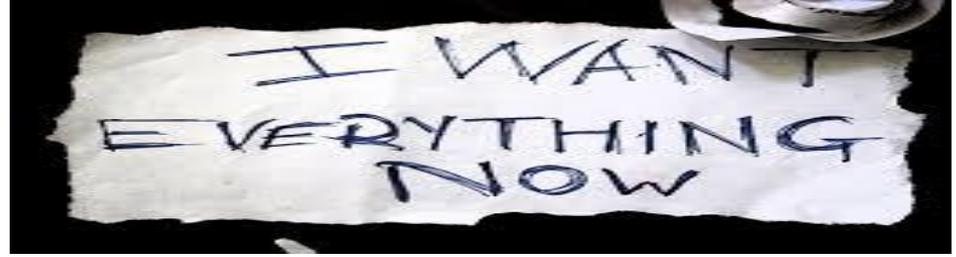
 Indra Hershoin said... 



Blackboard Mobile App



Conclusion



- The opportunity to instantly publish on the web encouraged participation.
- Students had an opportunity to share in the clinical experiences of their peers through blogging.
- Interaction with instructor.
- Blogs can be a useful clinical tool for nurse educators to establish nurturing communication space that enhances students reflection of their clinical experiences.



Thank You!

