My Experiences with Clinical Reflection

### Abstract

This presentation will discuss the mechanism one nurse educator used to focus on her perspective of leadership by looking through the lens of a creative expression. This nurse educator compiled clinical reflections she required in a variety of nursing education domains as a means to reflect on her own growth and development as a leader in both nursing and education. Excerpts from actual student reflections, as well as the nurse educator’s reflections will be provided. There will also be connections made to other creative expressions of growth and development of leadership capabilities. The overarching purpose of this presentation is to provide attendees to view clinical reflection from a different perspective. This presentation will offer not only the view of the nursing student, but also the view of the nurse educator. Finally, the nurse educator will describe her own growth as a result of reflecting on clinical reflections. Any nursing students, nursing faculty, and practicing nurses who are interested in using clinical reflection to expand their own professional horizons should benefit from attending this presentation.

### The Purpose of Clinical Reflection

To promote the learner to apply a variety of content to their clinical experiences.

### My Role

**1. Nurse Residency Educator**
- **Clinical Experiences:** Week-long preceptorship experiences in different units.
- **Level of Learners:** New graduate nurses.
- **Reflection Opportunities:** Face-to-face meetings, written reflection logs, and online discussion boards.
- **Goals of Reflection:** To live vicariously through each other. To discuss complicated clinical cases. To discuss situations that are emotionally difficult. To vent in regard to frustrating experiences. To critically analyze a variety of professional issues.

**2. Clinical Instructor**
- **Clinical Experiences:** Weekly on a Medical-Surgical unit.
- **Level of Learners:** Senior and baccalaureate nursing students.
- **Reflection Opportunities:** Post-conferences, written reflection logs.
- **Goals of Reflection:** To connect clinical experiences to didactic practice.

**3. Course Leader**
- **Clinical Experiences:** Weekly on a Medical-Surgical unit.
- **Level of Learners:** Senior-level and baccalaureate nursing students.
- **Reflection Opportunities:** Written reflection logs, medication reflection logs, and interprofessional reflection logs.
- **Goals of Reflection:** To perform critical thinking to apply the knowledge previously attained regarding medications.

**4. Course Leader**
- **Clinical Experiences:** Weekly on a Medical-Surgical unit.
- **Level of Learners:** Senior-level and baccalaureate nursing students.
- **Reflection Opportunities:** Writing, reflection logs, medication reflection logs, interprofessional reflection logs.
- **Goals of Reflection:** To discuss and reflect upon the importance of collaborating with other members of the healthcare team.

**5. Course Leader**
- **Clinical Experiences:** Service-learning opportunities.
- **Level of Learners:** All levels of baccalaureate nursing students.
- **Reflection Opportunities:** Online discussion boards.
- **Goals of Reflection:** To enrich the learning experiences. To reflect on civic responsibility and community.

**6. Course Leader**
- **Clinical Experiences:** Simulation experiences.
- **Level of Learners:** Senior-level and baccalaureate nursing students.
- **Reflection Opportunities:** Debriefings, Online discussion boards.
- **Goals of Reflection:** To apply knowledge gained in didactic courses to the simulated experience.

**7. Course Leader**
- **Clinical Experiences:** Preceptorship practicum.
- **Level of Learners:** Graduating senior baccalaureate nursing students.
- **Reflection Opportunities:** Online discussion boards, Connections to “Educating Nurses: A Call for Radical Transformation.”
- **Goals of Reflection:** To reflect on the reasons for certain assignments, experiences, and lessons provided throughout the program.

### What I’ve Learned

- The importance of reflecting on the students’ reflections.
- The importance of reflecting on how I perform nursing education.
- The perspective of the student reading or hearing others’ reflections.
- My perspective as a teacher.
- My perspective as a leader.
- Other possibilities.
- The way reflections cause us all to be changing characters.
- Reflection teaches for creativity.
- Reflection allows students to explore their experiences in an open-ended, trusting manner.
- Reflection allows us to collaborate in the development of multiple solutions.
- Reflections encourage students to think about what their experiences mean for them as a person and as a nurse.
- Reflections allow students to identify their attitudes and dispositions.

### I’ve discovered my leadership mission

As that of a servant leader.