



INTRODUCTION

Why look at using technology to increase engagement?

Benner (2010) challenged nursing faculty to seek a more effective approach to nursing education. With the emphasis shifting from critical thinking to clinical reasoning, using case studies to encourage students to prepare prior to class enables the instructor to use class time for expansion and development of this skill. Much of the research to date has indicated the importance of engagement leading to a positive impact on learning and clinical reasoning. This can lead to the lifelong implementation of inquiry and learning.

Reaching the Net Generation

Students born after 1980 have never known life without the internet. Research shows that these students are expecting to use technology in their learning and prefer to be active participants. Posting on a social media platform allows students to add to a discussion while providing an avenue for feedback.

Incorporating Clinical Reasoning

It is important to motivate students to think like a nurse:

- Determining what information is necessary
- Interpreting the data
- Develop a plan of care
- Assess the positive and negative aspects of actions
- Achieve sound clinical outcomes
- Promoted through self-reflection and critical thinking.



SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS

Prior to each class meeting, students required to access discussion board and answer questions related to class content.

Freshmen

- Questions can be a link to class content:
 - Nursing Process How do you solve a problem?
 - Growth and Development: name a topic for anticipatory guidance for each age group.
 - Health Promotion: What is health?
 - Family Nursing: Name a health promotion activity that your family utilizes.



Upper division clinical courses

- Case study presentations that require clinical reasoning to be used in order to answer the questions:
- Case study scenario: You are visiting the home of a woman who has just had right hip replacement surgery. Her daughter, who has been caring for her full-time, relates that she is reluctant to move and use her walker. Transferring to a chair is difficult and painful. Her daughter is afraid to help her when she calls out in pain. Encouraging independence results in the woman becoming fretful and angry.
 - **Prioritize your assessment taking the scenario into consideration.**
 - **Identify causes that may be contributing to her reluctance to move.**
 - **What are at least three possible problems that may arise in priority order?**
 - **Which members of the health care team should be included in the plan of care?**

DISCUSSION

Student responses:

- Increased understanding of the material
- Able to participate in class discussions
- Applying clinical reasoning to experiences in hospitals and community
- Increased communication between students and faculty.

Faculty responses

- Increased critical thinking and clinical reasoning skills
- Able to apply concepts to patient care situations.

Better prepared for class.

Strategies must be identified to promote engagement and clinical reasoning skills. Emphasis should be placed on making students responsible for their learning. The use of discussion boards encourages growth and learning through networking



REFERENCES

References are provided on the available handout