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Eng. 2/ Section #0037

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Critical Thinking in Nursing

1. Proposal Statement/ Questions

My topic for this research proposal is about Critical Thinking in my current and future profession in Nursing. The research proposal question that I will be using is the following: **How do Nurses or Nursing students use critical thinking in their profession?** My Hypothesis is that **in order to be successful and make reliable and efficient decisions during any situation or diagnosis, a Nurse should be able to rigorously use their critical thinking for decision making.** Other research questions I will be incorporating are the following:

* How is critical thinking used in the Emergency department?
* What type of critical thinking characteristics do Nurses develop?
* Is critical thinking an Illogical process in this profession?
* How is critical thinking used in my current profession as a Certified Nurses Assistant?
* How do Nursing Students develop their critical thinking throughout their Nursing education?

1. Argument

In the world of nursing, where life is unexpectable for any one inside or out of the hospital, Nurses along with other staff members have to be fully equipped and trained for any situation. It all begins when the student is first introduced to the scenario during nursing school. The analytical skills begin to develop during this first stage and continue to further evolve when clinicals come in hand with real life situations. As the student progresses from being a student to becoming a nurse along with taking the role and charge of the patient, the nurse now has to create precise and logical diagnosis for the treatment of the patient.

1. Stipulation

For the past 3 years I have worked in the nursing field as a Certified Nurses Assistant (CNA) both at the Salinas Valley State Prison and at a Subacute unit in a Rehabilitation Center. Nursing has been a passion of mine since I was little and taking care of my grandmother who suffers from Type I Diabetes. At the age of 8, I was taught to give my grandmother the appropriate dosage of insulin after checking her blood sugar. I was the one who would attend the medical appointments with her and translate the diagnosis from doctor to patient. Although I have experienced many real life situations working as a Certified Nurses Assistant in the subacute unit and prison, both work places are very unique in their own ways when providing medical attention to the patient. The subacute unit consists of patients with chronic respiratory problems. Most of them have respiratory ventilators that assist them with breathing which is attached to the tracheostomy that goes down through the trachea. These patients require extra attention when providing patient care. While working in the prison I noticed the change in medical attention provided to the inmates. It was more like administration of medication to the inmates rather than actual patient care unlike the nursing homes. I was part of a very tragic incident with an inmate about a year ago that led him to being intubated at the hospital. During this incident I noticed that some of the nurses didn’t have the skills to respond when he went into cardiac arrest. Since many of these nurses do not use the skills they develop during nursing school while working at the prison, the skills begin to fade away.

1. Bibliography

Ali-Abadi, Tayyebeh et al. "Critical Thinking Skills In Intensive Care And Medical-Surgical Nurses And Their Explaining Factors". *Nurse Education In Practice*, vol 45, 2020, p. 102783. *Elsevier BV*, doi:10.1016/j.nepr.2020.102783.

This article was mainly selected because it discusses and emphasises its importance towards the intensive care unit. I am able to harmonize with this article since I do work with patients with ventilators and most of them before they are received into the facility do come from the ICU from the hospital. It discusses a study conducted with 120 medical-surgical and ICU nurses and compares the levels of critical thinking each department has based on the study.

Ericksen, Kristina. "The Importance Of Critical Thinking Skills In Nursing | Rasmussen College". *Rasmussen.Edu*, 2017, <https://www.rasmussen.edu/degrees/nursing/blog/understanding-why-nurses-need-critical-thinking-skills/>.

The third current article I have chosen is “The Importance Of Critical Thinking Skills In Nursing | Rasmussen College”. The article states the importance of critical thinking in nursing by making a systematic clinical skill statement by comparing practical skills learned in nursing school and the ability to think clearly and make rational decisions.

Heidari, Mohammad, and Parvin Ebrahimi. "Examining The Relationship Between Critical-Thinking Skills And Decision-Making Ability Of Emergency Medicine Students". *Indian Journal Of Critical Care Medicine*, vol 20, no. 10, 2016, pp. 581-586. *Jaypee Brothers Medical Publishing*, doi:10.4103/0972-5229.192045.

This article states the importance there is in critical thinking in the emergency department. It is a study that was made to determine a descriptive and analytical research that tests the medicine emergency students on their critical thinking skills. It mentions numerous incidents in recent years that led personnel to encounter complex problems and issues.

Papathanasiou, Ioanna et al. "Critical Thinking: The Development Of An Essential Skill For Nursing Students". *Acta Informatica Medica*, vol 22, no. 4, 2014, p. 283. *Scopemed Publishing*, doi:10.5455/aim.2014.22.283-286.

I selected this article based on the abstract provided and the reference made with nursing and the frequent critical thinking the clinical practice has. It discusses the key points of analytical thinking with an emphasis in clinical nursing practice. The article states “Critical thinking is defined as the mental process of actively and skillfully perception, analysis, synthesis and evaluation of collected information through observation, experience and communication that leads to a decision for action.”

Writers, Staff. "The Value Of Critical Thinking In Nursing + Examples - 2019 Nursejournal.Org". *Nursejournal.Org*, 2020, <https://nursejournal.org/community/the-value-of-critical-thinking-in-nursing/>.

This article will be one of the few articles that I have decided to select to help me approach the meaning of critical thinking in nursing. The article discusses several key points that are important to the nursing profession such as the skills developed or how critical thinking is used by nurses. The article states “What is different about the thinking of a nurse from a sound engineer or dentist? Mainly it is how the nurse views the patient and the sorts of problems nurses have to deal with in their work. Thinking like a nurse requires you to think about the entire world and content of nursing, including ideas, theories, and concepts in nursing. It also is important that we better develop our intellects and our skills so that we become highly proficient critical thinkers in nursing.”