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# Get them talking! Promoting online discourse with IENs in nursing bridging education

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# Overview

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Background

Best practice: Online Discourse

Crafting Questions

Evaluation

Lessons Learned

Future plans



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# Background

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## RN Bridging Re-Entry Program

- Maritimes
- French/English
- Blended
- IENs and Canadian-educated
- Distance



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# Best Practice: Online Discourse





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# Best Practice: Online Discourse

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## Connectivity

- Level of interactivity

## Community

- Community of inquiry
- Warm, safe place



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# Online Discourse Literature

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## Collaboration

- Engagement and team work

## Clarity

- Instructions, expectations
- Questions



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# Learning Strategy

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**Goal**  
**+**  
**Plan**



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# Crafting Questions

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CREST model

Socratic questions

Get them comfortable...then challenge

Interesting and perhaps controversial





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# Crafting Questions

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## Shared experience:

- Concept and personal story, affective

*Share a situation in which you, or another nursing colleague, demonstrated autonomy and accountability in nursing practice. Describe your feelings, what you learned and how it affected your nursing practice.*



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# Crafting Questions

## Ethical dilemmas:

- Safe, ethical decision-making
- Diversity, Choice, Confidentiality, Boundaries

## Debate:

*Which of the determinants of health is most influential? Why?  
Why is this an important factor for nurses to consider when  
delivering nursing care?*



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# Results?



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# Evaluation

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## Satisfaction Survey:

- Professional Nursing in Canada
- 11 IENs, 5 Cdn-ed = 16 total
- 81% response rate



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# Evaluation

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Were questions interesting and relevant to course concepts?

*Agree/SA = 92%*

Did online discussion contribute positively to learning?

*Agree/SA = 85%*



## Did online discussion?

- Help to clarify course concepts
- Build nursing knowledge
- Promote my critical thinking skills
- Help me feel connected and part of a community

*Agree/SA = 77%*



# Evaluation

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## Did online discussion?

- Increase course engagement
- Overall satisfaction with online discussion as effective learning strategy

*Agree/SA = 85%*



# Evaluation

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## What did you like best?

- Learning different perspectives, sharing experiences
- Feedback from all, interaction with others helped to solidify and broaden learning





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# Evaluation

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## What did you like best?

- Promoted critical thinking, tied to course concepts, application of theory to practice.
- Confidence building aspect
- Sense of respect and belonging



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# Evaluation

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## What did you like least?

- Technology challenges
- Oversaturation of discussion
- Not learning style
- Timing and pacing intense



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# Lessons Learned

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Love the “sharing experience” ...personal narrative, building knowledge key

Need to augment collaborative learning...group activity?

Smaller discussion groups? What is ideal number?



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# Lessons Learned

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Scaffolding of questions...knowledge to synthesis

Upfront info how to get them to buy in? Open up to new ways?

Question development KEY



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# Future Plans

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Refine and enhance questions

Optimize group numbers

Enhance higher levels of learning  
through more directive collaboration



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