

Professional Nursing Practice -Fall 2012-Assignment #5

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**a. Based on this assessment tool, my dominant learning style is:**

According to the Index of Learning Styles, I am a fairly well balanced on the two dimensions of that scale. My score on the scale were 1-3. Meaning, that my learning style is well balanced between both active, which I retain and understand information by doing something active, and reflexive, which I prefer to think it though quietly first. I tend to think about a situation in a timely matter, not taking too much time before acting onto it. I also, learned visually and verbally. I learned best by looking on pictures, diagrams, flow charts, time lines, films, and demonstrations. Also, I get more out of words, written and spoken explanations. I learned more when information is presented both visually and verbally. Therefore, I do not have any dominant style of learning; I am in between the two dimension of learning (<http://www.engr.ncsu.edu>).

**b. Based on this exploration of information, when faced with conflict, I am most apt to: Collaborate.**

According to Mennonite Church web-site, the way I will deal with conflicts is through a collaborating method. I will give my own point of view, but I am always open to listen to other peoples concerned or problems. I will emphasize that each group listen to each others' opinions to understand he/she concerns in a quiet and peaceful environment. I will treat each group's equality, and respect their differences. I will also strive to look for options to meet the desired outcome where everyone can benefit from. Together we would come to an agreement to satisfy the needs of the entered group (<http://peace.mennolink.org>).

**c. Based on this assessment tool, my personality style is:**

ESFJ - "Seller". Most sociable of all types. Nurturer of harmony. Outstanding host or hostesses.

12.3% of total population (<http://similarminds.com>).

**d. Based on the self assessment tool above, my personality style is:**

Introvert

Sensing

Felling

Judging

**a. Identify and briefly describe a concept or key idea**

**Bridging the Generation Gaps:**

According to Halfer, Saver, and Alfarro-LeFevre, the purposed of Bringing the Generation Gaps program is to developed ways in which healthcare providers can work effectively with different generation. They suggested that to have a well develop work environment, and to be successful in working side by side as a team with different generations, he or she need to understand each other views of life and work. In this way they will collaborate and communicate more effectively with each other, as a result, they would have a better patient outcome (<http://ce.nurse.com>). Also, according to this article, Veterans, Baby Boomers, Generations X, Y, and Z, have different attitude, personalities, cultural events, experience different national catastrophes, listen to different music, start school and work in a different time. Although, they encounter with these differences characteristics, this article showed ways to develop different strategies to “Work Together” minimizing the effect of generation conflicts (<http://ce.nurse.com>). For instance, generation X, Y and Z, enjoy working in a fun environment, enjoy latest technology, strive to have balance between work and life activities, value self-reliance, like to work independently, while the baby boomers take work more seriously such as a mission, often becoming workaholics, and value teamwork. The veterans, on the other hand, have respect for authority and enjoy learning from them, they tend to be discipline, and enjoy consistency in the work place. Therefore, by putting these different generations in a room to find an important common

goal, and keeping them focus an excellent care, might help in improving work environment, thereby creating a positive patient outcome (<http://ce.nurse.com>).

**b. How might this impact your practice of nursing and/or precepting?**

As nurses we work with people from different cultural background such as age, race, sex, and religious, and we struggle to find ways to understand each other attitudes in order to have a better work atmosphere. Therefore, this article was really an eye opener for me. It make me realized that it is not only about understanding different cultures, but also, it is important to comprehend how different generations view life and work as well. Understanding the differences between generations, being empathetic with an open mind, and being nonjudgmental about a person or situations, would make people get along at work, and communicate more effectively with each other, therefore, creating a more positive work environment. This article was very exciting to me because not only that I learned about the different characteristics between generations, but I also understand my own generation as well. I was born in generation X, and I definitely can relate with some of the characteristics that this article mentioned. For instance, I enjoy when my managers provide me with feedback about whatever task I am doing. This uplifts my self-steam, and it stimulates me to do a better job. I also, enjoy working in a diverse population, and having extra time for fun and life activities. I also believe that it is crucial for employers to understand the differences between generations, so that he/she will know how to recruit and retain employees. Sometime you wonder why people behave the way they do, not understanding that they was born and grow up with a different mentally than you, can be devastating specially at your work place. Therefore, I believe that learning about different generations, and creating different strategies such as finding common goals between different generations to minimized

conflict in the work setting is imperative. This would improve communication between staff; create a better work environment, and therefore creating a better patient outcome.

**a. Identify and briefly describe a concept or key idea**

**Critical thinking is more than problem solving:**

According to Rosalinda Alfaro-LeFevre, critical thinking can be learned, and it is more than problem solving. She argues that if people only have problem solving mentality, then they do not have critical thinking skill. Meaning, that critical thinking goes further than solving a problem and critical thinker's look on the entire picture of a situation regardless if a problem exists or not. On the other hand, Salipante's article suggests that the five step of the nursing process is part of an educational program, but critical thinking cannot be taught. She stated that critical thinking is a problem solving method, and that it is part of nurse's character that are develop through knowledge and experience (<http://alfaroteachsmart.com>). Alfaro-LeFevre, stated, that in the nineties, people used to think that way, but in recent literature people think that those statements are outdated. She argues that critical thinking can be taught and can be a part of the educational program. She stresses that critical thinking should be a part of basic education, and should continue to find way to cherish and assess it as a competency. In fact, she stated that many states have been improving in teaching critical thinking skills at early age. Implementing critical thinking strategies in grade K-12 have improved children ability to generate and evaluating ideas more effectively (<http://alfaroteachsmart.com>).

**b. How might this impact your practice of nursing and/or precepting?**

As nurses, critical thinking is a part of our everyday practice. Although, I believe that you develop critical thinking strategies from your educational background, and clinical experience. This article was very enlightened to me because it made me look at critical thinking from a

different prospective. From my experience in nursing school, and from reading this article, I believe that the school curriculum should put higher emphasis in critical thinking strategies. This will help nurses to think critically in a more effective way, in times of emergency. In order to solve a problem you need critical thinking strategies. For instance if a person come to the emergency room with severe chest pain, you have to be able to think quickly in order to safe this patients life. Therefore, if we learn different ways to improve our critical thinking skill, it will facilitate our ability to think quickly in times of emergency.

## References

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