There are many different views and philosophies about what make up the practice of nursing. Some people feel that nursing is solely viewed as a profession that heals through physical actions such as medicating patients or starting an IV. I feel it goes beyond that. To me there is a certain level of devotion and compassion you must have in order to handle the responsibility that comes with your professional license. This is my philosophy of nursing. Nurses aren’t just nurses. They are educators, therapists, investigators, and patient representatives. They give strangers a shoulder to cry on and comfort those in their greatest time of need. Being a nurse goes beyond handing out medications and wound care. It is about integrity, kindness, and dedication. It requires you to not only address the physical aspects of patient care but also the psychological and emotional components. If you are not addressing all these issues in a compassionate, non judgmental way I believe you are not truly practicing what it means to be a nurse. Years ago I had my own personal health struggle. As a teenager, I was suffering from a rapidly progressing case of osteomylitis. The doctors treating me were in and out, poking and prodding, trying to figure out the cause of my ailment and find a treatment fast. Though I was grateful for their attempts and help it was the nurses who cared for me that made the biggest impact on my disease and recovery. They showed me what I feel is the true philosophy of nursing. They spoke up to the doctors on my behalf. They took the time to explain what was going on and answered my never ending questions. They validated my fears and gently reminded me there would be a positive outcome to my situation. Through this difficult and demanding time those nurses exemplified what it really meant to be a nurse. They were devoted to their patients and jobs and compassionate about the care they rendered. They set the tone for my nursing career and helped me formulate my own philosophy on nursing. Through this experience I realized nursing is about treating others the way you would want to be treated. It is about embodying the patient caregiver rapport and focusing on feelings, concerns, and fears. It is about being aware of cultural competence and putting aside personal feelings to best serve the patient. It is so easy to fall into the same routine at work. Come in for your shift, complete your work, and go home. However, you become a robot and are not truly fulfilling your work role. If you encompass what I feel is the true philosophy of nursing you must understand that everyone deserves to be treated equally. That it is not about the job duties written on your paper assignment but rather the values and ethics behind what it means to be a nurse. Everyone is entitled to a non judgmental approach of care. As nurses we use our knowledge from school to treat our patients physically but just as importantly we should be treating our patients emotionally with dignity, compassion, and devotion. That means coming to work on time with a positive outlook so that patients can be treated in an unhurried and caring manner. Baring these values in mind has helped shape the nurse I am today, tomorrow, and all the years to come.