• INSTRUCTOR'S GUIDE •

1 Critical Thinking and the Nursing Process

CHAPTER 1 OUTLINE	CLASSROOM STRATEGIES/COOPERATIVE LEARNING
Critical Thinking	
	Free Writing: Have students write a definition of critical thinking and how it will benefit them as licensed practical nurses/licensed vocational nurses (LPNs/LVNs).

Critical Thinking Traits
    Intellectual Humility
    Intellectual Courage
    Intellectual Empathy
    Intellectual Integrity
    Intellectual Perseverance
    Faith in Reason
    Fair-mindedness
Nursing Knowledge Base
	Have students share examples of situations involving the use of critical thinking attitudes.

Critical Thinking Skills
    Problem Solving
    Other Critical Thinking Skills
	Have students identify a common non-nursing problem to solve as a group, using the problem-solving process (for example, a car breakdown on the way to clinical).
	
	Discuss the importance of vigilance as a nursing intervention. (Apply to non-nursing problem as well. Would the car have broken down if the problem had been identified earlier, through vigilant observation?)

Nursing Process	
Role of the LPN/LVN	Have students review their state nursing practice act related to their scope of practice.

Data Collection
    Subjective Data
    Objective Data
    Documentation of Data
	Exercise: **Comparing Subjective and Objective Dat**a*
	Exercise: **Collecting Subjective Data***

Nursing Diagnosis	
	Have students review the current list of nursing diagnoses from The North American Nursing Diagnosis Association (NANDA).
Planning Care	
Prioritize Care Establish Outcomes Identify Interventions Implement Interventions Evaluate Outcomes	***Exercise:*** **Critical Thinking: Prioritization*** ***Cooperative Learning:*** Assign students to a group, have the group assess one of the students, and develop a nursing care plan. Make sure the student "patient" is willing to share appropriate information related to a real problem such as a sore back, headache, lack of sleep, etc.

*Worksheets for starred items follow.

Comparing Subjective and Objective Data

Identify whether the data are subjective (S) or objective (O).

_____ **1.** "My leg pain is a throbbing pain."

_____ **2.** Capillary refill, 2 seconds

_____ **3.** Lung sounds clear bilaterally

_____ **4.** Dyspnea

_____ **5.** "My husband fell last night."

_____ **6.** Apical pulse of 68 bpm

_____ **7.** Patient moaning

_____ **8.** Moderate amount of yellow sputum

_____ **9.** Anxiety

_____ **10.** Patient resting quietly on left side with eyes closed

Collecting Subjective Data

Use the following scenario to practice using the WHAT'S UP? Guide to Symptom Assessment.

Mrs. Smith, age 47, had a hysterectomy 2 weeks ago. She is admitted with a blood clot in her right calf that she thinks resulted from the surgery. She rates her pain, which began 2 days ago, at 8 on a 0-10 scale and describes it as aching and constant. She has increased calf tenderness with leg movement. Leg elevation and Tylenol #3 increase her comfort. She states her right calf is hot to touch and red and that it seems bigger than her left calf. Place the data in the appropriate spaces.

W

H

A

T

S

U

P

Critical Thinking: Prioritization

Your neighbor Mr. Lewis, age 76, knocks on your door. He says, "Look at my left foot. It is very swollen. I wore new shoes yesterday that felt tight. Now, I can hardly get any shoe on this foot. There is a tender area on the top of my foot. I think something is wrong. Can you help me?" You help him in and ask him to sit down. He limps to a chair and sits down, breathing heavily. You note that he seems sad. He says he has been feeling blue since the loss of his wife several months earlier and that he gets very lonely living alone. When you look at his foot, you note an open area on the top, with a small amount of yellow drainage. Even after 20 minutes in your home, he still seems to be breathing heavily.

You identify the following problems. Prioritize them based on Maslow's hierarchy of needs.

1. Left foot swollen with open lesion
2. Lives alone
3. Grieving loss of wife
4. Difficulty breathing
5. Difficulty walking

CHAPTER 1 ANSWERS

Subjective and Objective Data

1. S	**6.** O
2. O	**7.** O
3. O	**8.** O
4. S	**9.** S
5. S	**10.** O

Collecting Subjective Data

W: Right calf

H: Tenderness

A: Increased calf tenderness with leg movement; leg elevation and Tylenol #3 increase comfort

T: Began 2 days ago and is constant

S: 8 on 0–10 scale

U: Right calf hot to touch and red, bigger than left calf

P: She thinks it resulted from having surgery

Critical Thinking: Prioritization

1. Difficulty breathing – physiological need – most likely to cause harm first
2. Left foot swollen with open lesion – physiological need
3. Difficulty walking – safety need – risk for falls, immediate risk
4. Lives alone – safety need, less immediate risk
5. Grieving loss of wife – love and belonging need