

## Maria Seidel's Self-Reflection for Critical Thinking Institute

### Teaching effectiveness:

Critical thinking, often viewed as a progressive part of advanced learning, is really about application of basic concepts to more advanced approaches. This has been useful with my teaching, as I start with elementary information which evolves into more complex. As professors and facilitators of learning terms such as "critical thinking" are used. Personally, I assumed I knew what critical thinking entails however since our committee participation, the dialogue shared provided a definitive definition and was a validation to me that I have been integrating critical thinking activities throughout my instruction.

CTI was a positive learning experience for me. Our nursing curriculum has recently undergone a makeover. Our whole program was changed from a "systems-based" approach to a "concept-based" approach. With that said, the learner progresses from the foundational concepts to the life threatening ones. Applications of knowledge and skills are more critical as the student moves forward thorough each semester. Since the CTI, I have changed lecture delivery and clinical post conferences for students to have self- reflections following their learning experience. I listen to their expressions and begin to build on them. I have tweaked an assignment in my BSN course. I have a DB assignment that entails students' perceptions of two basic theories and how these theories can be applicable to their areas of practice. Students were able to recall a patient encounter that was parallel to the foundational theory and where asked to apply their nursing knowledge. The students also shared what they could have done differently, changing the outcome of the patient- nurse encounter.

### Suggestions for success with CTI:

The rubric discussion was valuable. I feel this could be continued and with the addition of new members, diverse perspectives will be included in the conversation. The dialogue among the committee members was the favored part for me. Ideas start to generate and the face to face exchange makes it an enjoyable learning encounter. The resources provided by CTI were also valuable. Perhaps each member can bring a new one to the table for discussion. Taking terms such as "inference, interpretation, analysis, reflection, and compare and contrast" helped me to provide the terminology in the assignments that would elicit the critical thinking concepts.

### Advice for Future

Diversity of ideas and thoughts have powerful influence however "transformation of these ideas" may be challenging for a faculty member. Keeping an open mind and having the ability to share ideas freely is very important. John and Arlene have created an atmosphere that is conducive to this. Not being afraid to share or even blunder at times is also crucial. Personally, I take steps forward and a few back during my learning experiences. Diverse perspectives are a strong foundation for the CTI to build on. Hearing these from our peers not only provides valuable information but also a strong coalition.