

Board Style Question Assignment and Class Activity: An Innovative Teaching Strategy to Enhance DNP Learning

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Background

DNP faculty have a responsibility to help students achieve clinical expertise and leadership skills. This past year, education has transformed at record speed to online education due to the COVID pandemic. Faculty are left searching for innovative strategies to teach, assess student knowledge, and encourage leadership within the profession. DNP students have had a challenging year as they navigate changes to their learning platforms and changes to the school community as it has become virtual. In an effort to design relevant and engaging course assignments, it was noted that several nursing certification boards, including the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board, offer Exam Writer Positions. This is a perfect opportunity for the novice DNP to become involved in Clinical Scholarship as outlined in the DNP essentials. The question writing also allows for assessment of content mastery and provides many opportunities for building community throughout clinical education.

Purpose

The purpose of this assignment is to assess the student's knowledge of assigned content, to promote clinical scholarship and leadership, and to further advanced nursing practice in the classroom setting. The goal is to strengthen student understanding of material and increase student confidence in the classroom, in clinical practice, and to prepare students for certification style exams.



Process

Faculty members at the University of Wisconsin School of Nursing representing the Adult Gerontology Acute Care NP and Pediatric Primary Care NP tracks have piloted this assignment throughout two cohorts of DNP students. Each student is asked to create two board style questions focusing on a module of course education. Questions must be evidenced based and rationale for the correct answer must be provided with APA citations. Faculty reviews the questions and offers them to students in a variety of different interactive class or take-home methods.

Board Style Questions Assignment

ASSIGNMENT:

Student will write **10 original board style quiz questions:**

Make sure to include the following:

1. The question (Case study style question)
2. The correct answer
3. Rationale for the correct answer.

The rationale for your answer requires an APA citation. The sources for your questions should be current and up to date. These should be deeper level questions - you will be helping your classmates to prepare for the board exam.

QUESTION FORMATTING:

You can create multiple-choice questions, using the following question format:

- The correct answer should have an *** asterisk** before it.
- Your question can have **multiple possible answers**. However, **each answer** must be accompanied by the **rationale** on a separate line.
- There needs to be a blank line between questions.

EXAMPLE:

What flavor of ice cream is available today?

- A) vanilla
- *B) chocolate
- C) strawberry

Rationale: Chocolate and Lemon are the only flavors available in January.

Implications for DNP Education

This assignment can be used throughout the DNP program, across cohorts and populations. The goal is to utilize innovation and engaging teaching strategies and assignments throughout the DNP coursework.



Outcomes

The result of this assignment has demonstrated in class student engagement, mastery over course content and clinical guidelines by the question writer, and the ability to apply knowledge by the test takers. Student satisfaction was voiced and evidenced through the campus course evaluation process.

References

- 1.American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2006). The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice. Washington, DC: Author.
- 2.Morrison, Susan and Free, Kathleen. Writing multiple-choice test items that promote and measure critical thinking. Journal of Nursing Education 40: 17-24, 2001.
- 3.Role Description of Exam Item Writers (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.pncb.org>.