Once Upon a Time: Encouraging cultural reflection through storytelling
Once upon a time...

...the School of Nursing at TRU created an assignment that required nursing students to reflect on a patient’s story through a culturally sensitive lens........
Relational Practice Course

Purpose of assignment:

Reflection on communication and personal meaning through a real and virtual exploration...

- Prepare nurses to care in a culturally sensitive way within a complicated and complex health system
- Elaborate on communication skills and culturally safe bedside manner
- Experience empathy virtually
Chapter One: Non-Fiction: An unpleasant situation with healthcare from “others”
Chapter Two: Fiction: A pleasant situation with healthcare based on “self as nurse”
Chapter Three: Bridging non-fiction with fiction: Critical Thinking/Theory – “so what”
Chapter One: Client’s perspective

• The tale of a negative/challenging encounter between a patient and health care

• Skills required by student: Active listening, validation, inquiry, humility, creativity, and storytelling
Chapter 2: Student nurse fantasy perspective

- Reflect how you would do it differently...

- Take the place of the nurse and turn the story into a positive experience

- Outcomes – realistic and sound, encouraging intercultural nursing process
Chapter 3: Theoretical Integration

• Embrace critical thinking and rationalize the fantasy

• What theory content was used and why?
Articulation of Theory

• Empathy

• Therapeutic communication

• “Ism’s”

• Assertive communication with team, family, peers

• Courageously self reflected and considered Indigenous issues

• Emulated professionalism and intercultural nursing

• Acknowledged their part as health care team in Chapter One

• Discovered role responsibility and collaboration of a Registered Nurse
• “I was astounded by my interviewee’s story,...it made me realize that these situations do occur and it is not just a case study”

• “Loved taking a real situation and analyzing my own practice”

• “The smallest things can have the biggest impact”

• “Therapeutic for the person I was interviewing”

• “Opened my eyes to the strengths and weaknesses in the health care system”

• “Family members matter to as they have a vested interest – they are patient”

• “Perception of how we are caring as nurses can be viewed differently when patients feel vulnerable”
Storytelling websites

- http://www-writing.berkeley.edu/TESL-EJ/ej16/int.html
- http://www.educ.sfu.ca/people/faculty/kegan/MemoryIm.html
- http://falcon.jmu.edu/%7Eramseyil/storyreference.htm
- http://www.opc.on.ca/pubs/stories
- http://makingstories.net
- http://storywise.com
- http://www.dstory.com/
- http://www.storycenter.org/


