CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS
The NLN Guide for Teaching Thinking

Directions for the Guide

IDENTIFY PATIENT’S STORY
› Uncover the thinking and emotions.
› Describe the patient care story.
› Determine if all important aspects of the situation have been identified.

UNDERSTAND AND GUIDE THINKING
› Use concrete objective data to clarify perspective.
› Discuss your impressions of their thinking.
› Provide your perspective based on past experience.
› Relay strategies that have worked in the past.
› Understand the knowledge guiding their thinking.

INTEGRATE INTO PRACTICE
› Discuss how this experience might influence thinking and practice going forward.
› Discuss the aspects of this situation that affected learning and will help them to remember this experience.

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Guided Questions for the Learner

**CONTEXT**
- How did caring for this patient/family make you feel?
- Who is this patient?
- What are your main concerns?

**CONTENT**
- I saw...
- I think...
- I wonder...
- Describe what you were thinking about during your experience.
- What sources of knowledge influenced/should have influenced your thinking?
- How have past experiences helped you make sense out of the current situation?

**COURSE**
- Set immediate course:
  - So based on...what are your next steps going forward?
- Set long term course:
  - How would the care differ if you... compare and contrast care situations (e.g. patient age change, setting change, etc.)
  - What will you do differently moving forward?