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 to 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?

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