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Illustrated journaling: Making meaning of an international practicum

One of the biggest challenges for a faculty member leading an international practicum is the facilitation of student learning with respect to making meaning of experiences. Reflective journaling has been used in nursing education to assist students to link theory and practice, but typically the journaling has been in the narrative format. The international practicum experience challenges students on many levels and students need an opportunity to explore those challenges and make meaning of the experience. Illustrated journaling provides students with an opportunity to engage in a different style of learning through the use of drawing, words, color, and narrative. This presentation will provide a brief overview of illustrated journaling, examples of how illustrated journaling has been used in international practicums, how illustrated journaling can be incorporated into seminar discussions, and how it has assisted students to make meaning of the international practicum experience. Through illustrated journaling students in the international practicums have stated they were much more engaged in their learning that it provided them with a new way of expressing their learning and knowledge, and it provided a more satisfying reflective journaling experience.

Biography

Donna L Petri completed her Nursing Education from Bethel College, Kansas, USA and Deakin University, Geelong, Australia. She is a Faculty Member in the School of Nursing at Thompson Rivers University (TRU) for 27 years with a focus on communication, cultural safety, cultural sensitivity, and international practicums. She developed and led international practicums in four different countries over a period of 10 years. She has numerous local, national and international presentations, including keynote addresses related to the pedagogy of international practicums. She is currently serving in the capacity of Associate Vice President Academic at TRU.