

Reflective Writing Instructions for Students USUHS Third-Year Pediatric Clerkship AY 2008-2009

Reflective practice is essential in the development of skills for life-long learning in the practice of medicine. Identifying, writing about, and discussing a specific clinical experience is a well established method of reflective practice. This exercise will provide an opportunity for you to write a short narrative and reflect on your own practice as a medical student and future physician.

Assignment: Choose a situation or experience that has personally inspired you concerning the profession of medicine, presented you with a challenge, helped you set a goal for improving your own practice of medicine, or affected you in another important way. This situation may have occurred during your pediatric clerkship, another clerkship, or in a personal medical experience. Choose an experience in which you were personally involved or that you observed first-hand.

1. Write a short narrative (1-2 paragraphs) describing this experience, and your comments or reflections about it. Do not use any specific names or identifying information such as which hospital or clinic. Consider the following questions as you write:
 - a. What happened?
 - b. How did this experience affect me?
 - c. What did I learn through this experience?
 - d. What aspirations does this experience evoke for my own practice of medicine?
2. Submit your narrative in Blackboard in the Group Section no later than COB on Monday of Week 5.
3. Read the other narratives in the group prior to the discussion on Thursday of Week 5.
 - a. NCA students will participate in a discussion during a CBILS session at 1500 at USUHS.
 - b. Students at Ft. Bragg, Portsmouth, and San Antonio will participate in a phone conference at 1600 Eastern Daylight/Eastern Standard time. You will receive an email message with a call-in number and instructions.
 - c. Students at Madigan, San Diego, and Tripler will participate in a phone conference at 1900 Eastern Daylight/Eastern Standard time. You will receive an email message with a call-in number and instructions.