

Review of: "Picture collage: A pedagogical reflective practice tool for nursing students in mental health practice"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This manuscript demonstrates the practical use for a creative teaching strategy that encourages nursing students to reflect on their prior learning experiences. Behavioral health is a challenging clinical area for student learning experiences, and the soft skill of reflection is honed with this innovative learning activity, giving the student a more well-rounded learning experience.

Regarding the title, the authors may wish to change "tool" to "assignment", since the collage was a class assignment, was used once and is not defined similarly to a "tool".

One area that would enrich the manuscript by adding would be a section describing the collage learning activity: tell how the activity is presented to the students, do the work on the collage at home or in class? if in class, how long are students given to create the collage and how long are they given to reflect on the collage and their experiences/ is there resulting group discussion about collages in general or is the reflection a written assignment? what was the student feedback about the assignment and how it helped their learning (there were some comments in the reflection, but including some assignment evaluation comments from students would be helpful to gain an overall picture of the collage assignment's student impact).

Other content to consider adding would be recommendations for other nurse educators who would like to use this assignment. Was anything learned that you would change or do differently in the future with this assignment? What advice do you have for those who want to use this assignment with their students? Might this assignment be useful for students in other nursing courses, studying other areas of nursing, such as pediatrics, obstetrics or some other focal area? This information would be beneficial for readers.

One last area to consider adding is some research recommendations based upon the assignment. What kind of educational research might be useful and add to the body of knowledge in the literature, that might stem from this assignment?

Some of the sources cited were quite dated, including one from 1963. (Not including the classic citation from Dewey regarding the power of reflection.) Citations should help to demonstrate the relevance of the content, and authors should give efforts to keeping reference citations current, ie published within the past 3-5 years, unless using classic sources.

In summary, the manuscript was creative, innovative and informative, and I identified some areas that would be enhanced



with additional information.