Creating Spaces to Support Scholarly Writing Development in Novice Nurse Scientists

CRITICAL FRIENDS

- **Critical Friends** is a six-step peer review protocol used to promote critical dialogue within an intellectual community (Costantino, 2010).

- Entry-level PhD nursing students enrolled in NURS 8205, an introductory PhD course, use the protocol to peer review a scholarly writing assignment.

- Research examining the contribution of Critical Friends upon the evolution of 18 PhD nursing students as scholarly writers offers strategies to establish an effective writing and learning community where peer review is valued (Tyndall & Powell, 2021).

- Critical Friends is recommended as a pedagogical strategy to enhance learner outcomes by building capacity for scholarly writing.

- Students struggled initiating Critical Friends on their own, so embedding the protocol in courses during the first year of study is recommended.


WRITING & LEARNING COMMUNITIES

- Doctoral writing is emotional work; however, learning within supportive communities has been effective in developing feelings of authority, shaping identities, and fostering voices of research scholars.

- Peer learning pedagogy strategies, such as Critical Friends and Writing Accountability Groups, create writing spaces that move beyond a vertical approach of learning towards a horizontal, community-based learning method.

- These writing spaces afford metacognitive opportunities for students to connect new information to former knowledge and for faculty to uncover threshold concepts.

- Writing and learning communities can provide the necessary monitoring required in the liminal states of learning.

- Meta-cognitive activities, scaffolding, and community positioning encourages doctoral students to engage with what it means to be a nurse scientist.

WRITING ACCOUNTABILITY GROUPS

- Writing Accountability Groups (WAGs) provide support for writing as a sustainable process, promoting “habits of writing” through accountability and provision of writing spaces.

- WAGs may capitalize on the bonds of academic and trusting social relationships, facilitating scholarship and continued learning of each member’s scholarship.

- The “wagging” process offers PhD students/graduates a writing space to disseminate dissertation research and continue ongoing scholarship as nurse scientists.

- WAGs can also be used during PhD study to promote scholarship within the structure of a writing and learning community.


RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP INTEGRATION


