Nurses: A One of a Kind Discourse Community

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“The concept of discourse community is more than simply knowing your audience”

Discourse Community

The term discourse community identifies a grouping of people who share common language norms, characteristics, patterns, or practices as a consequence of their ongoing communications and identification with each other

1. Contains a specific lexis
2. A broad set of common goals
3. Intercommunication among its members
4. Participation to provide information and feedback
5. Possession of one or more genres of communication
6. Has a level of belonging that not everyone can participate in

(Wardle & Downs, 2011)

Discourse Analysis Steps:

1. Choosing the text
2. Identifying the explicit purpose of the text
3. The processes used for claiming authority connections to other discourses
4. Construction of major concepts
Nursing is a type of discourse community that not everyone can belong to. It takes a special type of person to become a nurse, to have passion for the work and compassion for those whom nurses serve, healthy or ill.

COMMUNICATION:

Nurses use medical terminology, mostly using text. In 1900, The American Journal of Nursing was first published. In the late 1920’s and 30’s case studies which are an in-depth analysis of patients or groups of patients to promote health interventions, began to be published in this journal (Burns & Grove, 2011). The steps in Table 2 help explain what needs to be done in order to understand the text within the discourse community of nursing.

Language of the medical field is what differentiates the medical field from any other. It is fair to say that health care providers depend on the written information about patients to communicate with others, especially those not present at the time. A prime example of this is the process of charting patient records, which is now regularly done on a computer. The knowledge, language and theories written by the nursing staff is solely understood by people in the medical field; the result being its very own discourse community. More importantly, the language, knowledge and theories used in the medical field are only specific to medical purposes.

Commonly Used Medical abbreviations:

http://www.asha.org/uploadedFiles/sI...reviations.pdf

Technology in the Nursing community:
Today, technology is the new and improved way of the nursing field. The following technological advancements have significantly improved the collaboration and communication within the nursing environment: wireless communication systems, workflow management systems and interactive patient systems (Turisco and Rhoads). The technological advancements today such as wireless communication systems have advanced the nursing field by using the hospitals wireless internet connection and introduced devices such as telephone handsets and light-weight badges with the ability to have hands-free voice capabilities. With the help of this system, communication between doctors and nurses in the hospital, they are more accessible to contact, especially in the case of an emergency. This can be life-saving when a patient is experiencing fatal events such as a heart attack, crucial fall or other near death experiences.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azYY-zD3HHA - Technology Used in Nursing

Summary:

It’s fair to say that everyone will be members of several discourse communities in their lifetime. It’s only our nature to communicate and interact with others; therefore, when we enter into a career such as nursing, it’s only common nature that we would do everything possible to become a member of this discourse community. Knowing the knowledge we’ve learned in this class and as well as others, we’re now able to be more successful in our discourse and know what to expect. To be part of the nursing community, one has to be caring, patient and willing to help people. There is nothing more rewarding than helping someone in need. The nursing community is a discourse community, a career, and a lifetime commitment.

Works Cited:

