

Adding Depth and Breadth Using Unfolding Case Studies

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HELLO!

I am Dr. Linda Merillat

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1. Overview/Introduction

WHY UNFOLDING CASE STUDIES?

- ▶ Strategy to promote independent critical thinking in online students
- ▶ Provide real-world, authentic context
- ▶ Guide and reinforce thinking with minimal grading



HOW WERE THEY INTRODUCED?

- ▶ First implemented in undergraduate pharmacology course
- ▶ Next, implemented in graduated pharmacology course
- ▶ Finally, implemented in two courses in post-graduate psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner certificate program



“The unfolding case studies overall are by far the most excellent way to synthesize the information, critically think and practically apply to patient vignettes.”

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2. Undergraduate Pharmacology Course

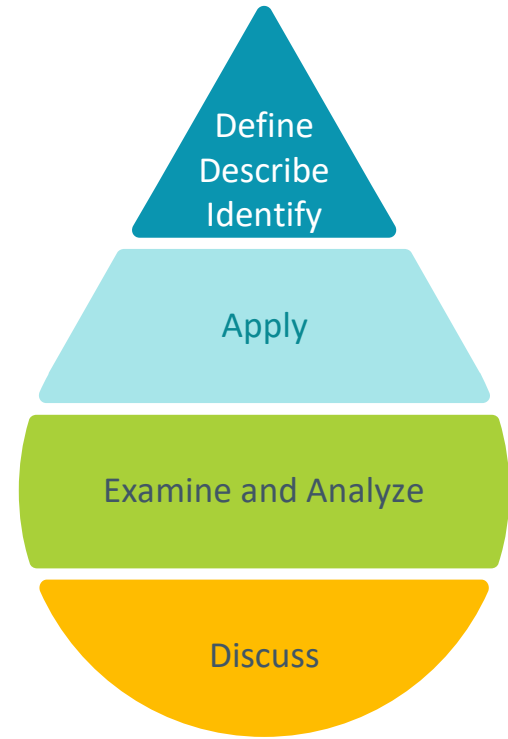
CHALLENGES OF THE ONLINE STUDENT

- ▶ Needed a way to promote active learning
- ▶ Wanted to integrate ancillary concepts along with body systems understanding
- ▶ Wanted a way to refine and refocus student understanding



STRUCTURE OF CASE STUDIES IN NU-301

- ▶ Define/describe/identify potential problems
- ▶ Apply knowledge and research
- ▶ Examine and analyze circumstances of case
- ▶ Open discussion with peers
- ▶ Each iteration of case graded



*“I think the Case Scenarios are great
and I have learned a lot from them.”*

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2. Graduate Pharmacology Course



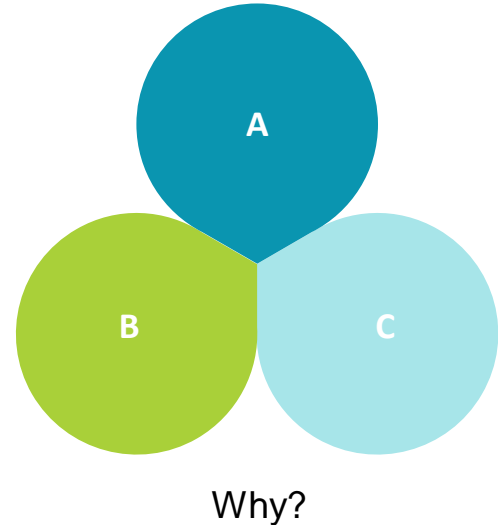
HELLO!

**I am Dr. Jody Toerber-
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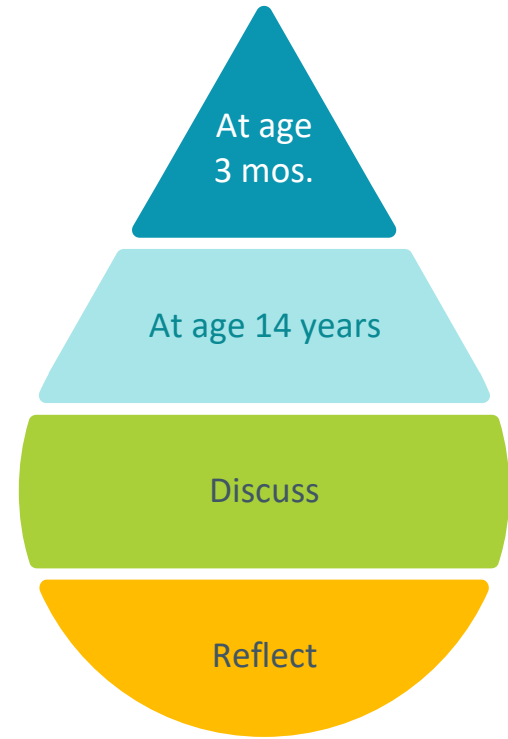
DEVELOP CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

- ▶ Promote critical thinking
- ▶ No right answer
- ▶ Defend or question chosen treatment plan
- ▶ Encourage clinical diagnostic reasoning in a safe and low-stakes assignment



STRUCTURE OF CASE STUDIES IN NU-822

- ▶ Drug Dosing
- ▶ Drug Interactions
- ▶ Patient Education
- ▶ Relationship to Pathophysiology
- ▶ Managing Side Effects
- ▶ Justify Responses
- ▶ Each iteration graded, but bulk of grade was on the reflection



“The case studies really helped me to understand the material. I enjoyed the scenarios and think they help to provide students with what they may encounter in practice.”

”

4. Graduate Psychiatric Interviewing Course



HELLO!

I am Dr. Tracy Davies

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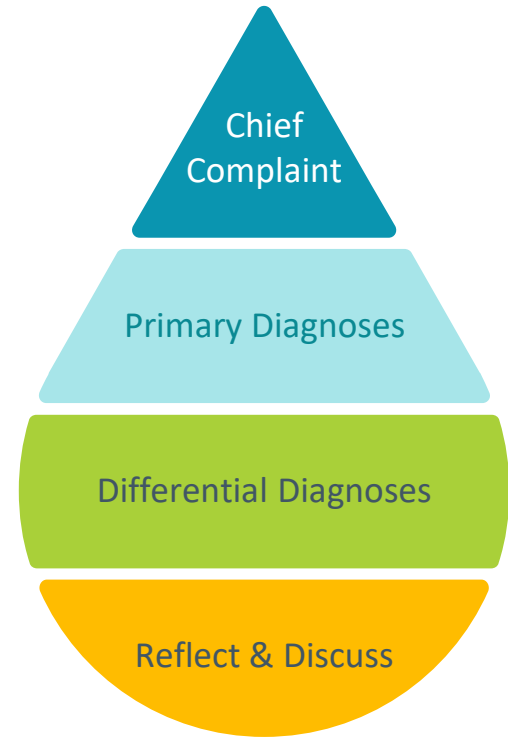
MANAGING LARGE CLASSES

- ▶ Challenged with increasing cohort size from 10 to 70
- ▶ No additional faculty provided
- ▶ Needed solution that provided learning experience, but minimized grading
- ▶ Needed scaffolding to keep students on track with appropriate, immediate feedback



STRUCTURE OF CASE STUDIES IN NU-826

- ▶ Focus on modeling process
 - ▶ Chief complaint
 - ▶ Primary Diagnoses
 - ▶ Differential psychiatric diagnoses
- ▶ Reflection & Discussion Graded



“This is by far the best use of distance learning I've experienced and requires true critical thinking and synthesis and application of the material.”

”

5. Graduate Psychiatric Pharmacology Course



HELLO!

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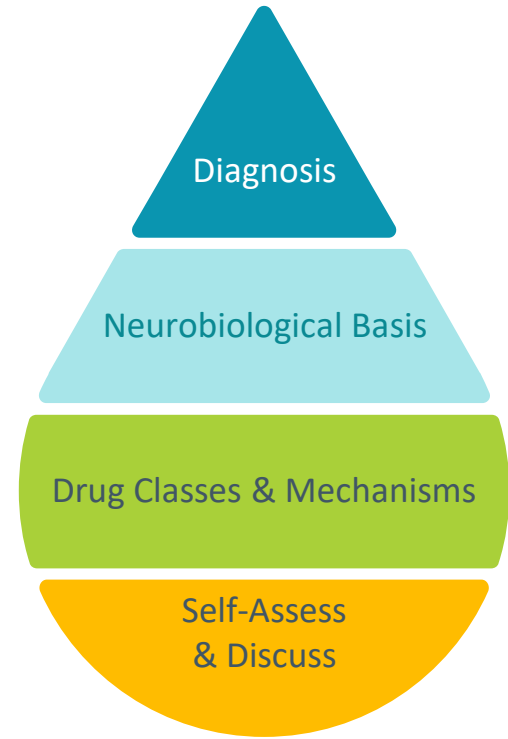
PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

- ▶ Manage dense content area
- ▶ Reinforce and model process
- ▶ Encourage critical thinking
- ▶ Allow students to independently self-correct thinking
- ▶ Help to identify specifics of pharmacology
- ▶ Justify responses



STRUCTURE OF CASE STUDIES IN NU-828

- ▶ Focus on application
 - ▶ Diagnosis
 - ▶ Neurological Basis
 - ▶ Drug Classes & Mechanisms
- ▶ Self-Assessment/Open Discussion
- ▶ Self-Assessment Graded



“The feedback from instructors on case studies in my opinion was the most robust means of learning in that it forced re-evaluation of my previous critical thinking to either keep it or discard it.”

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6. Technical/Logistical Aspects to Implementing Unfolding Case Studies

Conditional Release

Condition release conditions in the LMS require students to complete a task before continuing to the next one.

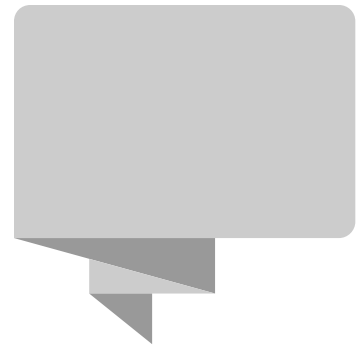


Self-Correcting Feedback

Self-correcting feedback allows students to learn from mistakes and continue along desired path.

Opportunity to Reflect & Discuss

Reflection and discussion
increases student's meta-thinking



Workable Grading Strategy

Develop a grading strategy that works for your class size and desired outcomes



“The unfolding case studies were by far the best online learning experience I've had to date.”

”

THANKS!

Any questions?

You can reach us at

- ▶ linda.merillat@washburn.edu
- ▶ <http://washburn.edu/nursing>