

Creative Teaching Strategies for the Nurse Educator

(2008) by Judith W. Herrman

Book Review:

The author provides many innovative strategies that she has used over the years from nursing education literature and her own experience. She explains that differences in learning styles warrants new and different ways to engage students and promote learning. She also states that the attentions spans have changed, students are more media savvy today, and with students and nursing staff feeling more stressed, it requires the use of a variety of media to assist in their learning, retention and making it fun.

Features: The books has several chapters that cover topics such as icebreakers, strategies for large classroom, strategies for small classrooms, strategies for clinical instruction and orientation, strategies for discussion groups, and strategies for teaching research. Each of the chapters give multiple examples how on how to use the strategies and she has label the strategies. For example, one icebreaker she has uses is called Past Experience with..... For a strategy for a large classroom, she has a strategy called Current Event. A strategy for small classroom, she has a Six Hats Exercise. She describes how to use a V-8 Conference with clinical instruction. She uses Admit Ticket strategy for enhancing a discussion group. At the end of each chapter there are personal journal pages where you can write notes and ideas that you want to try or thoughts on evaluating your own teaching style.

She concludes the book with how to use PowerPoint effectively and the advantages and disadvantages of creative strategies. She also has an annotated bibliography that may help in deciding on the next book to read.

Although this book is focused more for the academia setting, I have already used some of the strategies to make the use of lectures and teaching in a classroom setting a little more interesting.

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