

Therapeutic Communication Gerontology Assignment

Learning Objectives and Outcomes		
Area	Objective	Course Student Learning Outcome (CSLO's), Baccalaureate Essential's & QSEN
Knowledge	Apply therapeutic communication nursing concepts in the delivery of nursing care to gerontology patients.	CSLO #1 & 2 Domain II: Person-Center Care QSEN Patient-Centered Care
	Examine the influence of age on nursing care decisions and actions for patients.	
Skills	Apply therapeutic communication principles, concepts such as active listening, silence, focusing, open ended questions, clarification, exploring, paraphrasing, reflecting, restating, providing leads, acknowledgement, and offer of self.	CSLO #1 & 4 Domain II: Person-Center Care QSEN Patient-Centered Care
	Increase their own self-awareness of judgments and pre-conceived notions that may affect their advocacy for older adults.	
	Evaluate effectiveness individual performance.	
Attitudes	Values the role of therapeutic communication in nursing care decisions and actions.	CSLO #1 & 4 Domain II: Person-Centered Care QSEN Patient-Centered Care
	Recognize personally held attitudes about working with patients from different age, ethnic, cultural and social backgrounds.	

Background

Therapeutic communication is a fundamental component of nursing and is a complex concept. Ensuring positive encounters between nurses and patients is essential for improving the quality of nursing interactions, the performance of various nursing duties, and meeting patients' diverse needs (Abdolrahimi et al., 2017).

This assignment will help students feel comfortable initiating conversations with older adults and raising awareness of older persons' wishes, expectations, resources, cultural traditions, and strengths.

Additional Guidelines:

- Plagiarism will result in a zero on the assignment.
- Follow the directions within each graded section.
- A template for the interview process is provided below.
- No late work will be accepted. Late work will earn a zero.
- All assignments must be completed in Microsoft Word.
- PDF and other formats will not be accepted.
- All reviewed articles must be peer reviewed research articles within the last 5 years.

Reference

Abdolrahimi, M., Ghiyasvandian, S., Zakerimoghadam, M., & Ebadi, A. (2017). Therapeutic communication in nursing students: A

Walker & Avant concept analysis. *Electronic Physician*, 9(8), 4968-4977. doi: 10.19082/4968

Del Caremn Molle, M. & Heithoff, H. (2021, January 11). *Nursing students interpreter tools to foster therapeutic communication with*

non-English speaking patients in varied care settings. QSEN Institute. <https://qsen.org/nursing-students-using-interpreter->

[tools-to-foster-therapeutic-communication-with-non-english-speaking-patients-in-varied-care-settings/](https://qsen.org/nursing-students-using-interpreter-tools-to-foster-therapeutic-communication-with-non-english-speaking-patients-in-varied-care-settings/)

Examining risks and benefits to enhance quality of life. (2022, January, 5). National League of Nursing (NLN).

<http://www.nln.org/professional-development-programs/teaching-resources/ace-s/teaching-strategies/aces-knowledge-domains/individualized-aging/examining-risks-and-benefits-to-enhance-quality-of-life>

Samuels, C. (2021, April 1). *20 questions to ask elderly loved ones to connect and reminisce.* A Place for Mom.

<https://www.aplaceformom.com/caregiver-resources/articles/engaging-questions>

Step One: Interview process:

Step One: Directions: Each student will independently complete the Therapeutic Communication Gerontology Assignment. Students will select an older adult to interview. The interviewee may be a family member, and the interviewee does not have to be a patient. Interviews can be face-to-face, virtual, or by phone. Each interview should be a minimum of 20 minutes. Students should ask a minimum of FIVE question. Example questions are listed below. Students can phrase the questions in a conversational tone. A student may ask a question not listed below but must write down additional questions in interview process chart provided. Students are to complete the Interview Process Chart per chart directions.

Example Interview questions:

1. What are the most rewarding things about getting older? Is it a lifetime of knowledge?
2. What are the most important lessons you have learned in your life? Ask to hear the stories behind those lessons.
3. Who has influenced you the most?
4. What life advice would you pass to future generations?
5. If you could go back to any age, what would it be? Would they stay the age they are now or go back? How far back? What was life like at that time?
6. What do you remember about the place you grew up? Do they still live there, or have they visited? If so, how has it changed?
7. Which invention from your lifetime that amazed you? What was life like before?
8. What was your favorite movie when you were younger?
9. What was your first job? How about your favorite?

Interview Process Chart

Question and Question Number: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List the question you asked below 	Student communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List 1 verbal communication skill used List 1 non-verbal communication skill used. 	Interviewee communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List 1 verbal communication skill the patient used List 1 non-verbal communication skill the interviewee used 	Student thoughts & feelings related to the communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe 1 thought or feeling related to the communication
1. What life advice would you pass to future generations?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal skill: Silence Nonverbal skill: appearance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal skill: Silence Nonverbal skill: Sounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Silence is necessary when asking a complex question such as this one. It ensures that both parties have time to contemplate the question and answer.
2. Who has influenced you the most?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal skill: intonation Nonverbal skill: sounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal skill: focusing Nonverbal skill: appearance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sounds can indicate active listening and help the other party know the interview is listening.
3. What was your first job? How about your favorite?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal skill: Timing and relevance Nonverbal skill: posture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal skill: intonation Nonverbal skill: eye contact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posture while asking a question can tell the interviewee that the interviewer is fully engaged in their answer.
4. What was your favorite movie when you were younger?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal skill: focusing Nonverbal skill: facial expressions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal skill: asking questions Nonverbal skill: posture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The interviewee asking a question to clarify the specific age helps let the interviewer know that they enjoy the questions being asked and want to give a complete response.
5. What is the best part about getting older?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal skill: open-ended questions Nonverbal skill: Eye contact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal skill: silence Nonverbal skill: Sounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The interviewee's silence tells the interviewer that they are thinking of the best answer instead of ending the interview as soon as possible.

Step Two: Interview Evaluation-Reflective Activity

Step Two Directions: After interviewing an older adult, students are to complete a self-reflective evaluation. Answer all FOUR questions listed below. Complete in full sentences with proper clarity and mechanics. Follow rubric for full guidelines.

1. What are the major take-home lessons after interviewing an older adult?
 - a. Many of the questions in the interview went back to not taking time for granted. That was the primary lesson learned. As an interviewer, hearing about losing friends and family who have grown old was eye-opening. Of course, people die, but it seems so distant from now. However, "it feels like yesterday" or "it flew by" was said multiple times. That was a good sticking point to remember.
2. How can a nurse adapt their practice to be more responsive to the unique needs of an older adult client?
 - a. The most significant adaptation to be made is in the nurse's education. Learning more about older adult health in school could improve the care of older adults. At one point in the interview, the interviewee mentioned that older people's health care needs can often be put on the back burner because some people see older adults as "almost dead" or "not worth the time or money." If more nurses receive adequate education on older adults, this bias towards older adults might reduce.
3. In what way is a student building their nursing skills by interviewing patients including older adults?
 - a. The student grew their nursing skills by learning firsthand what older adults find wrong with modern healthcare. If the individual student could work harder to correct these in their practice, more older adults would be satisfied with their care.
4. Reflect on one question and expand on how the communication could improve.
 - a. The communication on question four could improve. The question was not open-ended and did not require much thought. Because of this, the interviewee answered the question in one word, and there was little communication between the participants.

STUDENT NAME _____

Total Points: _____/90

RUBRIC FOR THERAPUTIC COMMUNICATION GERONTOLOGY ASSIGNMENT

Interview Evaluation-Interview Process Chart

Criteria	Unacceptable 0 Points	Acceptable 5 Point	Good 7 Points	Excellent 10 Points	Points
Question one	<p>Missing three or more of the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill used. • Interviewee communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill the patient used 	<p>The conclusion is adequate with superficial thought and preparation; does not address all aspects of the task.</p> <p>Missing two aspects of the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill used. • Interviewee 	<p>The conclusion is well developed that addresses all aspects of the task; it lacks full development of concepts. Missing one of the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill used. • Interviewee communication: 	<p>Description well developed conclusion fully addresses and develops all aspects of the task.</p> <p>Including all the following aspects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill used. • Interviewee communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill the patient used 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill the interviewee used ● Student thoughts & feelings related to the communication ○ Describe 1 thought or feeling related to the communication 	<p>communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill the patient used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill the interviewee used ● Student thoughts & feelings related to the communication <p>Describe 1 thought or feeling related to the communication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill the patient used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill the interviewee used ● Student thoughts & feelings related to the communication ● Describe 1 thought or feeling related to the communication. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill the interviewee used ● Student thoughts & feelings related to the communication ○ Describe 1 thought or feeling related to the communication 	
Content Contribution	Information that is off-topic, incorrect, or irrelevant to discussion.	Repeats but does not add substantive information	Information that is factually correct; lacks full development of concept or thought.	Factually correct, reflective and substantive contribution.	
Clarity & Mechanics	Long, unorganized content that may contain multiple errors or may be inappropriate. More than 5 clarity, spelling, grammatical, or mechanics errors.	Communicates in manner with some 3-4 errors clarity, spelling, grammatical, or mechanics errors.	Contributes valuable information with minor 1-2 clarity, spelling, grammatical, or mechanics errors.	Contributes to with clear, concise formatted in an easy-to-read style that is 0 grammatical or spelling errors.	

Criteria	Unacceptable 0 Points	Acceptable 5 Point	Good 7 Points	Excellent 10 Points	Points
Question two	<p>Missing three or more of the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill used. • Interviewee communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill the patient used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill the interviewee used • Student thoughts & feelings related to 	<p>The conclusion is adequate with superficial thought and preparation; does not address all aspects of the task.</p> <p>Missing two aspects of the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill used. • Interviewee communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill the patient used ○ List 1 non-verbal 	<p>The conclusion is well developed that addresses all aspects of the task; it lacks full development of concepts. Missing one of the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill used. • Interviewee communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill the patient used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill the 	<p>Description well developed conclusion fully addresses and develops all aspects of the task.</p> <p>Including all the following aspects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill used. • Interviewee communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill the patient used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill the interviewee used • Student thoughts & feelings related to the communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Describe 1 thought or feeling related to the communication 	

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<p>Question three</p>	<p>Missing three or more of the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill used. • Interviewee communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill the patient used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill the interviewee used • Student thoughts & feelings related to the communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Describe 1 thought or feeling related to 	<p>The conclusion is adequate with superficial thought and preparation; does not address all aspects of the task.</p> <p>Missing two aspects of the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill used. • Interviewee communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill the patient used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill the interviewee used • Student thoughts & 	<p>The conclusion is well developed that addresses all aspects of the task; it lacks full development of concepts. Missing one of the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill used. • Interviewee communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill the patient used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill the interviewee used • Student thoughts & feelings related to the 	<p>Description well developed conclusion fully addresses and develops all aspects of the task.</p> <p>Including all the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill used. • Interviewee communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill the patient used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill the interviewee used • Student thoughts & feelings related to the communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Describe 1 thought or feeling related to the communication 	
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Question four	Missing three or more of the following aspects:	The conclusion is adequate with superficial	The conclusion is well developed that addresses	Description well developed conclusion fully addresses and	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill used. • Interviewee communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill the patient used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill the interviewee used • Student thoughts & feelings related to the communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Describe 1 thought or feeling related to the 	<p>thought and preparation; does not address all aspects of the task.</p> <p>Missing two aspects of the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill used. • Interviewee communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill the patient used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill the interviewee used • Student thoughts & feelings related to the communication 	<p>all aspects of the task; it lacks full development of concepts. Missing one of the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill used. • Interviewee communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill the patient used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill the interviewee used • Student thoughts & feelings related to the communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe 1 thought 	<p>develops all aspects of the task.</p> <p>Including all the following aspects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill used. • Interviewee communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill the patient used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill the interviewee used • Student thoughts & feelings related to the communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Describe 1 thought or feeling related to the communication 	
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Question five	Missing three or more of the following aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student communication: 	The conclusion is adequate with superficial thought and preparation; does not address all aspects of the task.	The conclusion is well developed that addresses all aspects of the task; it lacks full development of concepts. Missing one of the following aspects:	Description well developed conclusion fully addresses and develops all aspects of the task. Including all the following aspects.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill used. • Interviewee communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill the patient used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill the interviewee used • Student thoughts & feelings related to the communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Describe 1 thought or feeling related to the communication 	<p>Missing two aspects of the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill used. • Interviewee communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill the patient used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill the interviewee used • Student thoughts & feelings related to the communication <p>Describe 1 thought or feeling related to the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill used. • Interviewee communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill the patient used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill the interviewee used • Student thoughts & feelings related to the communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Describe 1 thought or feeling related to the communication. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill used. • Interviewee communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List 1 verbal communication skill the patient used ○ List 1 non-verbal communication skill the interviewee used • Student thoughts & feelings related to the communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Describe 1 thought or feeling related to the communication 	
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Interview Evaluation-Reflective Activity

1. What are the major take-home lessons after interviewing an older adult?

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Content	Information that is off-topic, incorrect,	Repeats but does not add substantive	Information that is factually correct; lacks	Factually correct, reflective	

Contribution	or irrelevant to discussion.	information	full development of concept or thought.	and substantive contribution.	
Clarity & Mechanics	Long, unorganized content that may contain multiple errors or may be inappropriate. More than 5 clarity, spelling, grammatical, or mechanics errors.	Communicates in manner with some 3-4 errors clarity, spelling, grammatical, or mechanics errors.	Contributes valuable information with minor 1-2 clarity, spelling, grammatical, or mechanics errors.	Contributes to with clear, concise formatted in an easy-to-read style that is 0 grammatical or spelling errors.	

2. How can a nurse adapt their practice to be more responsive to the unique needs of an older adult client?

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Clarity & Mechanics	Long, unorganized content that may contain multiple errors or may be inappropriate. More than 5 clarity, spelling, grammatical, or mechanics errors.	Communicates in manner with some 3-4 errors clarity, spelling, grammatical, or mechanics errors.	Contributes valuable information with minor 1-2 clarity, spelling, grammatical, or mechanics errors.	Contributes to with clear, concise formatted in an easy-to-read style that is 0 grammatical or spelling errors.	
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3. In what way is a student building their nursing skills by interviewing patients including older adults?

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	discussion.		concept or thought.		
Clarity & Mechanics	Long, unorganized content that may contain multiple errors or may be inappropriate. More than 5 clarity, spelling, grammatical, or mechanics errors.	Communicates in manner with some 3-4 errors clarity, spelling, grammatical, or mechanics errors.	Contributes valuable information with minor 1-2 clarity, spelling, grammatical, or mechanics errors.	Contributes to with clear, concise formatted in an easy-to-read style that is 0 grammatical or spelling errors.	

4. Reflect on one question and expand on how the communication could improve.

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	discussion.		concept or thought.		
Clarity & Mechanics	<p>Long, unorganized content that may contain multiple errors or may be inappropriate.</p> <p>More than 5 clarity, spelling, grammatical, or mechanics errors.</p>	<p>Communicates in manner with some 3-4 errors clarity, spelling, grammatical, or mechanics errors.</p>	<p>Contributes valuable information with minor 1-2 clarity, spelling, grammatical, or mechanics errors.</p>	<p>Contributes to with clear, concise formatted in an easy-to-read style that is 0 grammatical or spelling errors.</p>	

