

GUIDELINES FOR THEORY PAPER

1. The focus of this paper is to describe, analyze and evaluate nursing theory. It is also intended as a way for the student to connect theory and research to particular nursing phenomena/situations/ areas of nursing concern. Use observations made in a practice setting to generate your particular topic. The phenomenon or area of concern selected must be an appropriate subject matter for nursing and conceptualized from a nursing perspective. Describe the phenomenon in clear and simple language, and why it is of interest to you.
2. Select a middle range nursing theory and indicate how it provides direction for describing, explaining, predicting or controlling the phenomena of concern. Discuss the way in which the theory applies to the topic.
3. Identify the major concepts of the theory and define these concepts as they are defined in the context of the theory. Are the concepts clearly defined? At the middle range level of abstraction? Measurable?
4. Describe the relationships between concepts as proposed in theory. Are the relationships logical? Do the statements of relationship build upon existing scientific knowledge?
5. Describe how the selected theory would be useful as a basis for nursing actions related to the area of concern. How would the theory guide the nurse in assessing, diagnosing, planning, intervening, and evaluating?
6. From the relationship statements in the theory, develop a research question which includes two relevant concepts. What sample population would you need to test this relationship?
7. This paper will be no more than 10 typed, double-spaced pages in length, not including the References, and must be in correct APA format. Papers will be stapled in the upper left hand corner, and will NOT be submitted in folders, binders, or plastic wrap.

This paper is worth 30% of your final grade, and will be evaluated using the general rubric attached.