**Module 5 Writing Assignment Clarification**

A **domain** is defined by Dictionary.com as an area or sphere of knowledge, thought or influence. The terms “domain” or “concept” are similar. They are actually expanded definitions of simpler terms such as nurse, person, health, or environment.

The **4 domains** that are referred to most often in nursing are **nurse, person, health, and environment**. These 4 terms are also referred to as the “**metaparadigm**” in nursing theory.

When writing about a domain, it best to start with a formal definition. One may start with a simple dictionary definition and then proceed to expand upon it with further explanation if desired.

Students may want to use terms as defined by a professional organization such as the American Nurses Association (ANA), the National League for Nursing (NLN), or the Joint Commission (JC). Other resources may include an accrediting organization’s document such as the *Association of American Colleges of Nursing Essentials of Baccalaureate Nursing* or a philosophy of nursing from a university such as Northern Kentucky University (NKU)/College of Health Professions (CHP)/ Department of Nursing (DON).

Journal articles may also be used as a source of reference. These should be peer reviewed professional journals. Avoid lay journals which are written for the general public.

It is good practiceto first locate a formal document from within an organization’s website for writing material. An example would be a position statement from the ANA regarding the risks and responsibilities of nurses when providing care (American Nurses Association, June, 2015).

When searching web sites, it is preferable to utilize one that begins with “.org” with “org” meaning an organization or “.edu” with “edu” meaning “education.” Examples would be the National Institute of Health web site at “www.nih.org” or a Northern Kentucky University at its “www.nku.edu” site. In general “.com” or “commercial” organizations are less reliable as they may be biased in the positions that they maintain on a particular topic.

When writing your nursing philosophy, follow the order of the grading rubric that is provided for the assignment in Module 5. This assists the student who is writing and the instructor who is evaluating the assignment.

The textbook also states that it is permissible to create one’s own explanations of terms when writing a personal philosophy (Masters, pp.110-111).

References

**American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2008). *The essentials of baccalaureate education for professional nursing practice.* Retrieved from** <http://www.aacnnursing.org/Education-Resources/AACN-Essentials>.

American Nurses Association. (2015). *American Nurses Association position statement on risk and responsibility in providing nursing care.* Retrieved from http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/Policy-Advocacy/Positions-and-Resolutions/ANAPositionStatements/Position-Statements-Alphabetically/Risk-and-Responsibility-in-Providing-Nursing-Care.html

Dictionary.com. Retrieved from <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/domain>

Masters. K. (2017). Role development in professional nursing practice (4th ed.). Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett.