

Capturing Illustrative Examples on Video:

A Better Way for Nursing Students to Learn How to Do Research

At the University of South Carolina Upstate's Mary Black School of Nursing, Nursing 306, Introduction to Professional Nursing, is the course for nursing students' first research project. Ten years ago, the librarian taught the students about doing research with a very long handout and a face-to-face presentation. In 2015, after consultation between the nursing liaison librarian and a nursing professor, an innovative and more engaging way of teaching nursing students to do library research began. The librarian used her observations from working one-on-one with nursing students doing their research assignment for this course to write a script for three customized Camtasia videos. The videos demonstrate searches that illuminate principles of research and answer questions students had. The librarian designed a ten question library exercise based on the content of the videos. For four semesters now, all the students in each section of Nursing 306 have been required to watch the videos and do the library exercise. This new way of teaching allows the students to replay the videos as many times needed to answer the questions -- an improvement over the one-shot presentation of earlier years. In addition, illustrative examples relevant to their research assignment give students concrete directions for their research. The audience will see clips from the videos, the library exercise and library guide with relevant resources. This innovative teaching method can be used as a model in all academic disciplines.

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