

Examples of good academic writing: level 4

Two examples of well-written and well-developed paragraphs. There is good discussion and effective use of the literature to support the points raised:

Example 1:

People have varying views about the meaning of health, and there is no right or wrong. As a nurse, it is important to understand what health is and that it is constantly changing throughout the lifespan (Prisette, 2015). There are both professional and lay concepts of health. One professional concept is centred around the holistic or wellness approach. This approach addresses many dimensions of health, including the following: physical, emotional, social, sexual and spiritual (Martin et al., 2016). An example of a lay perception of health may also vary depending on the individual's life experiences (Jouvet, 2014). For instance, a patient may have coronary heart disease and smoke, but they may consider themselves to be healthy because they swim twice a week. Therefore, as a healthcare professional, it is important to appreciate that a patient's view of health might differ from that of a professional.

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Comment [1]: Acknowledging that there are different views or perspectives

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Comment [2]: Demonstrating relevance to the nurse's role

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Comment [3]: Awareness of different definitions

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Comment [4]: Expanding on previous sentence and providing an example

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Comment [5]: Explaining the above and providing detail

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Comment [6]: Another example to illustrate the point of the paragraph

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Comment [7]: Effective concluding sentence for this paragraph

Example 2:

Effective communication is essential in providing excellent care (Jones et al., 2014). Cohen et al. (2015) explain that person-centred care is achievable if the different health and social care professions work collaboratively. Also, communication is one of the 6 Cs and is presented as being central to effective team working (Department of Health (DoH), 2012). Clear, sensitive and effective communication facilitates understanding of each other's professional roles, detracting from making assumptions and stereotyping professions (Kumar, 2013). When a deep understanding of what another professional is aiming to achieve is established, working towards a common goal should become easier (Stevenson, 2014). Also, Robson (2015) suggests that collaborating with colleagues requires dialogue as

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Comment [8]: Good topic sentence which introduces the topic of the paragraph clearly

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Comment [9]: The benefits of the approach are clear from the start

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Comment [10]: Very good point and clearly expressed.

dialogue helps to establish a shared vision that is shaped through different perspectives.

She further explains that whilst talking is essential to assert one's point, listening is fundamental to dialogue. In this respect, it is important to practice active listening. As explained by Murillo (2015), active listening involves eye contact, listening instead of planning an answer, clarifying understanding of what has been said, not interrupting and giving feedback, both verbally and through body language. In order to aid clarity and further understanding, acronyms and abbreviations should not be used as these can vary between the different professions involved in the patient's care (Simmons, 2013).

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Comment [11]: Very good points about the need for dialogue and what it means.

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Comment [12]: Useful linking phrase that helps the flow of the paragraph.