

Module 3 Mini Paper Assignment Instructions

Caring for a Dying Patient

No matter the area of practice, almost all nurses will have a patient die in their care at some point in their careers. A patient death is often a pivotal rite of passage and an experience that stays with the nurse for the remainder of her/his career. The nurse may define the death as a *good* or *bad* death, though these terms have varying meanings. Medical technology has made remarkable advances in extending life, sometimes resulting in ethical quandaries concerning quality versus quantity of life. As members of the health care team that spend the most time with patients, nurses face these dilemmas daily, which can result in moral distress, burnout, and even abandonment of the profession.

INSTRUCTIONS

Write a brief **response paper** on your first experience caring for a dying patient. A response paper is a three-page paper responding to the writing prompts below and integrating your personal insights.

Please note: The use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology for learning activities and written assignments in this course is prohibited as it violates the principle of academic integrity.

General Guidelines

The following elements should be included in your paper using APA style and formatting. The *American Psychological Association Manual*, 7th edition (APA, 2020) page numbers are included for your reference. A template for the response paper is included in the assignment folder.

- The entire paper should be double-spaced with one-inch margins (p. 45). If you do not use the template, you will need to adjust the default margins of your Word document.
- There are options for font style in the 7th edition (p. 44). The entire paper should be in the same font (including the page numbers).
- Indent the first line of each paragraph (p. 45). Do not use right justification for the text (p. 45).
- The good news about a **response paper** is that you may use first person as you write (p. 10). Use a scholarly tone in your paper (review Chapter 4 of the APA Manual).
- The paper should be no more than 3-4 pages (the title page and references page(s) do not count).
- In-text citations and a reference page are required. Use evidence to support your assertions.
- Quotes are to be used sparingly; instead, practice synthesizing, paraphrasing, and properly citing. Only one quote is allowed in your mini paper.

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Title Page

- The title should summarize the main idea of the response paper. The title should be engaging for the reader (p. 31). The title should be in title case, bold, centered, and positioned in the upper half of the title page (p. 32).
- Name, School, Class, Instructor Name, and Date are centered under the title (p. 32).
- The running head is **not** required for student papers (p. 37). A running head is required for manuscripts under review for publication.
- Place a page number in the upper right-hand corner beginning on the title page (p. 30, 44). Match the page number font to the font used in the paper.
- APA style typically includes an abstract after the title page. The abstract is **not** required for this paper.

Body of Paper

- The title of the paper also appears at the top of the first page of text, centered and in bold (p. 32, 48).
- The paper should start with an attention-grabbing sentence that makes the reader want to read on. The very last sentence of the introductory paragraph should include a clear purpose statement. (*The purpose of this paper is to...*).
- Use descriptive headings and subheadings as needed in the body of the paper (p. 48). An example of headings and suggested length for the section is provided; feel free to modify the headings and add appropriate subheadings. In the body of the paper, respond to the following discussion prompts.

Part One: The First Death (1-1.5 pages)

Write a reflection on your first experience caring for a dying patient. Start by briefly describing the setting and your work environment. How long had you been a nurse at this point? Then, describe the patient: their sex and approximate age, the illness that resulted in their death, who was with the patient? Share the pertinent events that lead to the patient's death and the immediate period after death. What did you feel during this experience? Were your co-workers helpful during this shift, physically or emotionally? Did you grieve for your patient? Why do you think you remember this death so clearly? How did this experience influence your nursing practice?

The preference is for you to describe your *first* patient death as a nurse, but you may choose instead to write about the most memorable, or impactful, death of a patient in your care. Deaths of family members are often powerful experiences, but in this case, we are interested in your experience in the role of being a nurse. If you have not experienced a patient death, interview a nurse colleague and ask them to share their story of a patient death.

If it is helpful, think of your story as five descriptive paragraphs.

- Setting
- Patient
- Death

- Feelings
- Impact on practice

Please avoid sharing any personally identifying information about the patient, their family, or your co-workers. Part One of the paper is your story; no in-text citations are required in this part of your paper.

Sharing the story of your experience in caring for a dying patient can provide a valuable opportunity for reflection on the values and contributions of nursing care to patients and their families (Fitzpatrick, 2019). **The assignment is not meant to be distressing;** if writing about a patient death causes you distress, feel free to schedule an appointment with Dr. Glover. You can also seek support from the OU Counseling Center at Graham Health, (248) 370-3465.

Part Two: The Role of the Nurse in Caring for Patients and the End of Life (1-1.15 pages)

Define palliative care; differentiate palliative care from hospice care. Discuss the role of the nurse in providing high quality care to patients facing a serious illness or at the end of life. How does this role relate to your nursing philosophy? How does your role relate to the American Nurses Association (ANA) Position Statement, *Nurses' Roles and Responsibilities in Providing Care and Support at the End of Life* (2024)?

Review **one** of the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA) [position and value statements](#). Describe why you chose to review the position or value statement and how it relates to your professional practice. Incorporate in-text citations in this section of the paper.

Conclusion (1 paragraph)

Summarize the entire paper in one paragraph.

References

An essential competency for baccalaureate nursing education is being able to apply APA style and formatting correctly. Take the time to review the APA Publication Manual (Chapter 9) and correctly format your references. Review the APA instructional videos on the Moodle course page.

Include at least six references. An *exemplary paper* will have more than six references.

- At least two references must be a recent peer-reviewed nursing journal article.
- Cite the ANA position statement, *Nurses' Roles and Responsibilities in Providing Care and Support at the End of Life* (2024).
- Cite the HPNA position statement you choose to review.
- Additional references can be a textbook, journal article, or website.
- Most references should be dated within the last 10 years.

Please note, if you use a citation manager, you must turn off the automatic formatting of your references before you submit the paper – this allows your instructor to comment on any errors in the references.

SUBMITTING YOUR ASSIGNMENT

- **Save your paper in Word** using the file naming convention: **M3_Paper_lastname**
- **Submit** the completed assignment via Moodle, under the Assignments tab.
- Submit your independent best work. Copyleaks (e.g., plagiarism and artificial intelligence) settings are enabled. If your plagiarism score is in the yellow or red zone, you must remedy this (ensure the plagiarism score is in the green zone) and resubmit your assignment to avoid point deductions. We monitor the AI score, but do not deduct points while we continue to explore how the AI score is generated.
- **Due: 10/12/25 by 11:55 pm**

GRADES

The mini paper assignment is worth 100 points (20% of your total grade). Consult the grading rubric and be sure to address all the rubric elements in your paper. The following late point deductions will apply: five points for each day after submission deadline. No work will be accepted beyond five days after the original due date.

Grading Rubric:

Category	Excellent exceeds standards	Good occasionally exceeds standards	Acceptable meets standards	Unacceptable below standards
Introduction (5 points)	Relevant to purpose of paper. Comprehensive and in depth. Strong purpose statement. 5	Content relevant to purpose of paper. Good purpose statement. 4	Conveys purpose but may be missing information. General purpose statement. 3 2	Does not adequately convey topic. Missing or inadequate purpose statement. 1
Body of Paper (20 points)	Addresses all discussion prompts. Clear organization of main points and ideas. Strong transitions linking main points. 20 19 18 17 16	Addresses most discussion prompts. Good organization of main points and ideas. Good transitions linking main points. 15 14 13 12 11	Addresses most discussion prompts. Organization of main points may be inadequate. Transitions linking main points may be missing. 10 9 8 7 6	Missing content on one or more of the discussion prompts. Content lacks organization. Transitions are missing or unclear. 5 4 3 2 1
Conclusion (5 points)	Strong review of key points. Strong integration with purpose statement. 5	Good review of key points. Good integration with purpose statement. 4	Review of key points. Integration with purpose statement may be inadequate. 3 2	Conclusion is inadequate or missing key points. Does not relate to purpose statement. 1 0
Grammar and Mechanics (15 points)	The paper is free from spelling and grammatical errors. 15 14 13	Spelling and grammatical errors are rare and do not detract from the paper. 12 11 10 9	Very few spelling and/or grammatical interfere with reading the paper. 8 7 6 5	Spelling and grammatical errors interfere with reading the paper. 4 3 2 1
Support (15 points)	Strong peer-reviewed support for main points. 15 14 13	Sources selected to support most main points. 12 11 10 9	Sources may not represent all requirements or may not be strong sources of evidence. 8 7 6 5	Few sources supporting main points. 4 3 2 1
APA Style and Formatting (20 points)	APA style and formatting flawlessly applied. Scholarly tone. Writing is flowing and easy to follow. 20 19 18 17 16	Rare errors in APA style and formatting. Scholarly tone in most sections. Writing has minimal awkward or unclear passages. 15 14 13 12 11	Errors in APA style and formatting are noticeable. Conversational tone. Writing has a few awkward or unclear passages. 10 9 8 7 6	Errors in APA style and formatting detract substantially from the paper. Informal tone. Writing is choppy or unclear. 5 4 3 2 1
Citations and References (20 points)	All in-text citations and references are correctly written. Exceeds minimum requirements. 20 19 18 17 16	Most in-text citations and references are correctly written. Includes each type of required reference. 15 14 13 12 11	In-text citations and references have some errors. Missing one of the required type of references. 10 9 8 7 6	In-text citations and reference errors detract significantly from the paper. Missing two or more of the required type of references. 5 4 3 2 1

CopyLeaks Score: If the CopyLeaks plagiarism score is in the yellow or red zone, you must remedy this (ensure the plagiarism score is in the green zone) and resubmit your assignment to avoid point deductions. We monitor the AI score, but do not deduct points while we continue to explore how the AI score is generated.

Your Full Title Goes Here: Centered, Bolded

Your Full Name

School of Nursing, Oakland University

NRS 3511: Transition to Baccalaureate Nursing Education

Dr. Glover/Professor Finch

October 12, 2025

Repeat of Your Full Title Here: Centered, Bolded

Please note that APA style typically includes an Abstract after the Title Page. The Abstract is not required for this paper. Instead, you should begin here with an attention-grabbing sentence that makes the reader want to read on. Use descriptive headings and subheadings as needed in the body of the paper; some are provided but you may add more if it helps the flow of your paper. In the body of the paper, be sure to respond to the discussion prompts. State the purpose of this paper.

Part One: The First Death

In this section, write a reflection on your first experience caring for a dying patient. Review the assignment instructions for additional details.

Part Two: The Role of the Nurse in Palliative Care

In this section, define palliative care; differentiate palliative care from hospice care. Discuss the role of the nurse in providing high quality care to patients facing a serious illness or at the end of life. How does this role relate to your nursing philosophy? How does your role relate to the American Nurses Association (ANA) Position Statement, *Nurses' Roles and Responsibilities in Providing Care and Support at the End of Life* (2024)?

Review and discuss one of the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association position or value statements.

Conclusion

Summarize the entire paper in one paragraph. Do not present any new evidence in this section.

References

Review the APA Publication Manual section on references (Chapter 9).

Start your references on a new page.

Use a hanging indent setting for your references. Do not manually indent your references. This is what a hanging indent looks like.

Include at least six references. An *exemplary paper* will have more than six references.

- At least two references must be a recent peer-reviewed nursing journal article.
- Cite the ANA position statement, *Nurses' Roles and Responsibilities in Providing Care and Support at the End of Life* (2024).
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