

Review of: "Picture collage: A pedagogical reflective practice tool for nursing students in mental health practice"

Julia Riley

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

It is my pleasure to review this excellent article that offers a culture-informed, creative approach to supporting nursing students' integration of clinical experience into practice. This article is informative and engaging. The bibliography led to further exploration of collage in education. As a nurse educator, this one way I evaluate an article....do I want to learn more?

This creative strategy, using collage for reflection, may seem simple to implement. As a Registered Expressive Arts Consultant and Educator (REACE) and nurse faculty having taught a nursing elective on the expressive arts in professional and personal development, I find many students and nurses are intimidated by the use of the arts.

To simplify the process and, perhaps, encourage other educators to have the courage to integrate collage as a tool for reflection, I suggest adding a box of directions. This can include simple supplies, the language used to invite students to participate, how to guide the students to completion in the time available. Such language may be: "Let the images choose you. Gather what appeals to you. You may not use all of them." A format I have found useful for instructions in expressive arts invitations is: 1) Purpose; 2) Supplies; 3) Directions/Language of Invitation; 4) Variations/Special precautions/Lessons learned; 5) Strategies for Processing.

I wish the authors continued success in the implementation of creative strategies to support our students' self-awareness and sensitivity to clients.

Julia Balzer Riley, RN, MN, Board Certified Advanced Holistic Nurse (AHN-BC), Registered Expressive Arts Consultant and Educator (REACE), Faculty, "Caring Science, Mindful Practice Massive Open Online Course; Faculty, Sage-ing® International [Sage-ing International – Changing the paradigm from age-ing to sage-ing](#)