

## How Do I Write a Reflective Narrative?

Write about an experience that you had in clinical practice that had an impact on you professionally or personally. The situation may stand out to you as something that went well or that was an error in clinical practice. The situation may have taught you something new. It may be a situation where you recognize that you clearly made a difference in the life of your patient. The situation need not be complex and may be the epitome of routine care. Also consider the following guidelines when writing your narrative:

- Use the first person.
- Write the story first, and then edit it down to the essential narrative account.
- Relay the central issue you encountered.
- Identify what influenced or confused you about the situation.
- Identify the feelings you experienced during the issue.
- Relay how you addressed the issue/situation.
- Relay what you learned from your experience.
- Relay what you would do differently in a similar future situation.

Adapted from Greenfield B & Jensen G. "Clinical Narratives as a Tool for Exploring and Fostering Professional Development and Critical Reflection: Part I & II." CSM Presentation 2013

Adapted from Clinical Staff presenters from Massachusetts General Hospital. "Resident Narratives: Revealing Clinical Reasoning through Reflection and Self Questioning." CSM Presentation 2013.