**Replies to Classmates (professional development)**

[Name of Writer]

[Name of Institution]

Dear Zarina

I agree with everything you have written about portfolios being important for nurses. Portfolios in any career help keep a track of every academic or related co-curricular achievement that help assess the specific skillset that the person brings. As a portfolio is a comprehensive collection of everything the nurse has achieved, it exists as a relationship between theory and practice. (Chin-Yuan Lai, 2016) An important step while training to be a nurse is learning complicated techniques as you go by. A portfolio lists all the techniques under the belt of the nurse so from a utilitarian point of view, it is easier to summarize the skillset. (GM Jensen, 1994)

The idea that a portfolio has the potential to help a nursing student identify any blocks in their learning is groundbreaking. A student basically has a snapshot of everything they have learned. (Coffey, 2005) They, therefore, know what exactly to work on in order to make the portfolio look completer and more refined. As the nursing practice commences after training, the portfolio just keeps on updating. This helps the student to objectively learn and practically apply new techniques as they go by even in professional settings. It also helps the nurse control what kind of a professional impression they want to make as they can then work on a portfolio to match it. Studies have proven that portfolios are a great help in everything from learning to hiring.

I also see everything you have listed about innovation in portfolios regarding nursing. Among other accolades that the technique of using a portfolio has brought to nursing, creative improvements are also a part. These include e-portfolios. Electronic portfolios are the talk of the town with regards to professional portfolios in nursing. Studies have already been conducted on the efficacy of electronic portfolios in keeping track of nursing achievements and the results are promising. (Chin-Yuan Lai, 2016) This could very well become the new face of nursing portfolios.

# References

Chin-Yuan Lai, C.-C. W. (2016). Promoting Nursing Students’ Clinical Learning Through a Mobile e-Portfolio. *Computers, Informatics, Nursing*, 535-543.

Coffey, A. (2005). The clinical learning portfolio: a practice development experience in gerontological nursing. *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, 75-83.

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