

Enhancing critical thinking among students outside the classroom using a concept map approach.

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Context: Learning is the acquisition of desired knowledge and/or skill independent of the external environment¹. The effectiveness of the system of instruction or delivery is instrumental in determining if learning is maximized for each individual. Other factors, such as student learning style and ownership of work responsibility influence the level of learning. The facilitation of learning through higher level thinking via a concept map, helps to shape critical thinking and the decision making process. **Objective:** Using innovative teaching activities, the clinical preceptors will assist students in the development of clinical decision-making by facilitating an active learning environment. **Background:** The use of concept maps and case studies in an academic curriculum has shown to enhance students' critical thinking and problem solving skills^{2,3}. In developing a concept map as the foundation to solve a case study scenario, students will be able to enhance their ability to provide a logical, comprehensive, and rationale approach to solving a problem. This technique can be used in a wide variety of physical environments, i.e. during practice coverage or travel time. **Description:** Through the development of a Prezi, students will create a concept map based on a specific case study identified by the clinical preceptor. Students will construct a flow chart to illustrate their procedural methodology, which will act as the foundation for discussion between the two. The clinical preceptor will use the Prezi to evaluate the student's knowledge and, more importantly, assess their ability to incorporate evidence-based practices into clinical decision-making. The discussion will lead to an understanding of the student's rationale, and create an active learning environment to stimulate ongoing communication. The desired outcome of the discussion is to generate an independent thinker who can critically assess a given situation. This presentation will review the creation of a Prezi, identify key questions to enhance discussion, and cultivate an environment that fosters clinical decision making grounded in best practices. **Clinical Advantages:** The Prezi opens dialog among clinical preceptors and the student. The open communication generates an opportunity to enhance critical thinking skills in the student. Obtaining a student's rationale allows the preceptor to gain insight into the student's thought process and help foster professional growth. **Conclusion:** Athletic training students are expected to enter into the profession with established problem-solving skills and the ability to critically think. As educators, it is our responsibility to foster their growth and promote an independent thinker. Identifying time outside the classroom will maximize learning opportunities for student (i.e.: clinical experiences). **Key Words:** Prezi, critical thinking, problem solving

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