

ENG 430 | Spring 2021

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#### Assignment 4: The Patient Narrative (20 pts)

Individual assignment.

##### Description:

This assignment asks students to explore the purpose of a patient narrative. Patients narratives are becoming a widely popular genre to help medical school students and/or broadly health profession students (i.e., nursing students, physical therapists, etc.) to gain unique insight into patient experiences regarding a particular health condition. Patient narratives are also used by health communicators to offer lived experience “data” in the context of a health decision. This assignment asks students to identify, interview, and compose a patient narrative that documents their lived experience with a health condition.

##### Purpose:

The goal of this assignment is two-fold: (1) to develop experience in talking to a patient about a particular health condition; and (2) to consider and reflect on the ethical and rhetorical decisions of representing a patient’s experience via a narrative. While patient narratives often appear “easy to read” they often times require sensitivity to the emotional subject-matter the interview may bring up. As such, we will spend time reflecting on how we represent patients in these narratives.

Research supportive of patient narratives in health settings is vast and reported in academic articles like this one: <https://www.nursingtimes.net/clinical-archive/holistic-care/patient-narratives-1-using-patient-stories-to-reflect-on-care-07-03-2016/>

##### Steps:

**Step 1:** Identify a person you know and think they would be open to being interviewed about a health experience. (I suggest identifying someone who you will have easy access to, like a roommate or a parent, etc.)

**Step 2:** Compose an interview plan and bring it to class. This plan should address who you plan to interview, why, what you hope to learn, some questions you think you may ask, and how you plan on recording or taking notes.

**Step 3:** Begin drafting your interview questions.

**Step 4:** Schedule & conduct your interview.

**Step 5:** Bring in your notes and the transcription of your interview. We will discuss how to re-compose such data into a narrative.

**Step 6:** Bring a draft of your narrative along with a series of notes discussing how you went about that process. We will discuss specific feedback you want to get from your interviewee.

**Step 7:** Share your drafted narrative with your interviewee and get their feedback about how they feel they are represented in the narrative.

**Step 8:** Take the feedback you received from the interviewee and revise your narrative to adjust to their suggestions.

**Step 9:** Reflect on this process and compose your reflection. Make any last minute changes to your patient narrative before submitting it.

### **Deliverables:**

This is a list of deliverables you will be creating in the process of composing a polished patient narrative:

- (1) Your interview plan – due March 2<sup>nd</sup>
- (2) Your interview questions – due March 4<sup>th</sup>.
- (3) Your interview transcription – due by March 16<sup>th</sup>.
- (4) A draft of your patient narrative – due March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- (5) Feedback from your interviewee – due March 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **What you will turn in on April 3<sup>rd</sup>:**

- Your polished patient narrative draft. Not to exceed 2 double-spaced pages.
- A 3-page reflection that addresses:
  - (1) Your relationship with patient
    - What interested you in working with this patient's story
    - What is your intention/purpose/hope in sharing this patient's story
  - (2) The reactions and/or adjustments the patient requested after reviewing the narrative
    - Did they feel like this was an accurate representation?
    - Did they feel empowered?
    - Did they request specific changes? If so, why and how did you make those?
  - (3) What you learned about writing another person's story
    - What was challenging? Why?
    - Was there anything you experienced that was unpredictable?