

Professional Nursing Concepts

Activity: My face – A window to communication (good introduction to the topic of therapeutic communication)

Purpose: To identify therapeutic communication skills as perceived by patients from the student nurse's nonverbal facial expression

Supplies : A variety of 8.5 x 11 colored paper
Scissors
Markers
Glue sticks
Stapler
Rubber bands
Instructions for students

Instructions: Explain the purpose of the activity
Refer to Emmanuel et al., 2010 article for feedback as needed
Have materials readily available
Give students 20 mins to complete, then 10 mins for sharing
Debrief by point out examples and explaining why effective communication is essential

Student Instructions:

- 1) Design a mask to display an abstract interpretation of the therapeutic skills you would require as a nursing students
- 2) This design should reflect how you would like to be perceived as a good communicator by your patient as your enter his/her room
- 3) Share with the class how you feel that therapeutic communication skills are portrayed from your mask
- 4) Suggest how "these" nurse-patient interactions which are portrayed can enhance/hinder communication
- 5) Discuss the major "communication" themes displayed by you classmates
- 6) Relate whether you felt this activity met its purpose

Debriefing: Highlight the major interpretations/rationales illustrated by the students. Relate to the lesson on effective therapeutic communication. Ask students how effective this exercise was for them.

Activity adapted from: Emmanuel, E., Collins, D., & Carey, M. (2010). My face, a window to communication: Using creative design in learning. *Nurse Educator Today*, 30, 720-725. doi: 10.1016/j.nedt.2010.01.011

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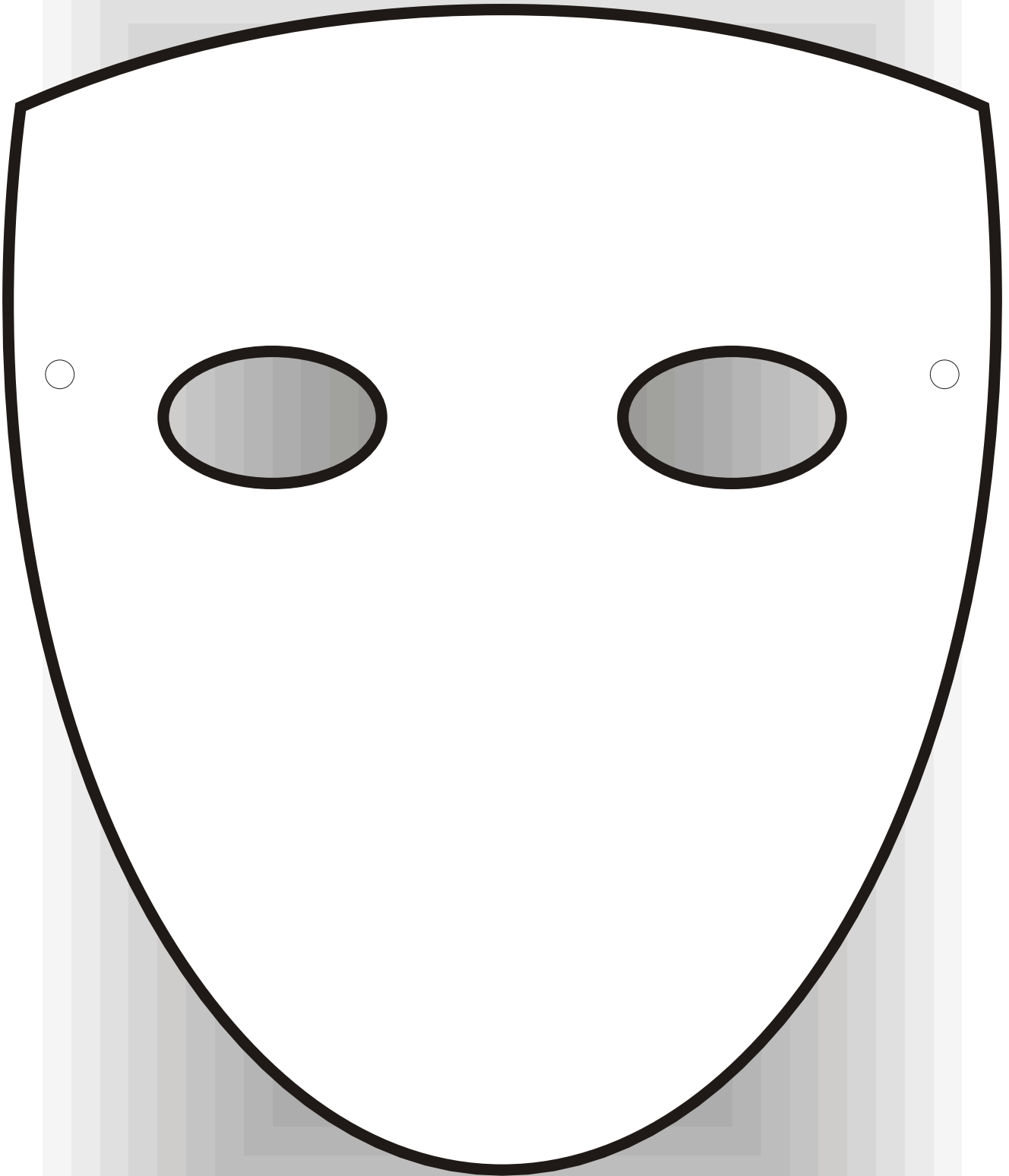
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Mask Template #001001

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**SAFETY
FIRST**

DO NOT leave children unsupervised during any craft activity.
DO NOT use craft knives. We only recommend the use of safety scissors.

Use at your own risk. We cannot accept any liability for accident, injury or damage to property caused by any tools or materials during any craft exercise.



Samples of masks over the last few years. Follow the directions, but you can be as creative and abstract as you want as long as you represent what you are supposed to. **Make sure you write on the back of the mask the meaning/interpretation of your mask.**

