

# 10 QUESTIONS, 10 ANSWERS



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COURSE:

**PHARMACOLOGY FOR NURSING 1 & 2**

(NUR1 300 & 301)

## SUMMARY

Students read 4–7 assigned scientific articles to find answers to 10 questions.

## GOALS

- Use science literature to answer clinical questions
- Learn a real-world professional skill
- Develop the ability to discern relevant information
- Become familiar with appropriate citation practices

*“Students need to learn that it’s not necessary to read everything in detail. Sometimes, it’s appropriate to read for the ‘essence’ of a text. That’s a useful skill to develop.”*

- William Archambault

## STEPS

- 1 The instructor or TA selects 4–7 scientific articles that address topics discussed in class.
- 2 They create 10 short answer questions for which answers will be found in only some of the articles. The questions can require a mix of calculation, analysis, paraphrasing, and synthesis of information.
- 3 Students receive the 10 questions along with the 4–7 articles. The instructor informs students that only some articles will provide answers.
- 4 Students skim and scan the articles to identify the appropriate information. They do not have to read every article in detail.
- 5 Students answer each question in a maximum of 100 words. Students have a month to complete the assignment and submit it via myCourses.

## ASSESSMENT

- The assignment is worth 10% of the final grade.
- Each of the 10 questions is worth 1 or 2 points.
- Answers are assessed for quality of content and accuracy of citation style (i.e., APA). Students can lose up to 10% of their grade for citation mistakes.
- An answer key is made available to students in myCourses once their graded assignments are returned to them. The answer key is an important source of feedback, and often the source from which students learn the most.

## READY TO TRY IT OUT?

### HERE'S SOME ADVICE ...

- Include articles that reinforce course content and that students will perceive to be relevant even if they don't provide answers to the questions.
- Students might search the articles for answers (e.g., by doing Ctrl+F) to avoid reading them. When writing the questions, paraphrase the language/keywords used in the articles so that students have to read to find the answers.
- Allow students 3–5 weeks to complete the assignment to reflect “real life”: in their practice, students will have time to research answers to questions.

## BENEFITS

- Students feel the assignment is related to their future clinical careers.
- Students do this assignment twice: before the midterm and before the final. It helps them prepare for the exams.
- The exams in this large class are multiple choice. The *10 Questions, 10 Answers* assignment provides students with an opportunity to demonstrate their learning in an alternative format. It also takes pressure off students as the exam comprises less of the final grade.

## CHALLENGES

- Students sometimes forget to cite their sources. For this reason, a portion of the assessment addresses citation.
- It's difficult to prevent students from copying from each other. Expect similarity among students' answers and compel students to cite their sources.

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