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Nursing: The Career That Saves Lives [Career Paper]

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Nursing: The Career That Saves Lives

Ever since I was little I have always had aspirations of becoming a nurse. From the time when my labrador retriever broke his leg, to when my dad had his hip replacement, you could find me trying to help any way a seven year old could. My grandmother and my father were both nurses so when I was growing up I was always exposed to this field and it always felt like where I was supposed to be. Although going to work with my dad regularly played a role in deciding on nursing as my career, it was my grandfather (a retired basketball coach) who swayed my decision the most. Exactly a year ago, my grandfather, Kenneth Loy, (better known as Pabuck to his grandchildren) was diagnosed with cancer. You have to know that Pabuck was our families' "glue" that held all of us together, and our biggest cheerleader, but he was also my biggest influence on why I chose nursing as my future career. When he was diagnosed with cancer I was a senior in high school. I often went home from school early from school to help take care of him, and was there everyday after school. Pabuck was often too weak to walk but in order to maintain his strength it was highly recommended that he took walks outside. He was holding onto me one day as we were taking a walk down the driveway and he said to me, "Maggie you have truly found your calling in life to be a nurse." Pabuck lost his battle to cancer in January of this year, but the memories I have of him are constant reminders and motivation to help people like him in the future when I become a nurse.

When thinking about your future career you must have general information about your field you plan to go into. When doing further research on nursing, an abundant amount of information was found. I first looked at the job description of nursing, although this may be common sense I often found that it entails providing care for the sick and infirm. According to *"The Truth About Nursing"* (2015), one of the most important roles in nursing is to be a patient advocate and to also empower patients. Usually when trying to become a nurse, you must have to attain your BSN (Bachelor's degree) which takes approximately four years. Your pre-requisite courses in your undergraduate studies may include anatomy, microbiology, chemistry, etc. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2014) you must also take and pass the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX-RN). After you become a licensed professional you can be certified in more specific areas. It also states in the Bureau of Labor Statistics, qualities or important skills registered nurses must have in order to be successful. You should have critical thinking skills to assess changes in patients, compassion, detail oriented, and physical stamina in order to be on your feet for your 'shift'. For most people, nursing is a career choice because of the salary. A study conducted in 2012 showed that the annual wage for nurses was \$65,000. A 'turn-off' to nursing for most people would be the around the clock care that you may have when working in a hospital setting. However an alternative would be to work in clinics or schools where you would have regular business hours. Overall, I believe that nursing is such a rewarding field to go into. You take care of people who cannot take care of themselves and save lives almost everyday!

Annotated Bibliography

The truths about nursing (2015, May). Retrieved from <http://www.truthaboutnursing.org/research/>

This website gives insight to nursing and presents qualities needed for the job. It also has requirements and pre-requisite courses listed to become a registered nurse. This website also provides different perspectives on nursing and lists the pros and cons of it.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics-Registered Nurse (2014, January 8). Retrieved from <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>

These statistics and information provide pros and cons to nursing. This website gives very detailed information on the nursing field and what it entails. It also lists job descriptions, salaries, important skills, and market availability.

Swanbamrung, C. (2015). Learning Experience of Student Nurses Through Reflection on Clinical Practice. *Nursing, 150(5)*, 623-628.

This article analyzes nursing students in their clinical rounds and their experiences. Forty students did their clinical rounds at pediatric hospitals and reflected on their experiences there and how it shaped their views on nursing. Due to my interest in pediatric nursing, this article opened my eyes to all the work and rewarding experiences in this field.

Richt, B. (2003). *On the Needs of Persons Receiving Elderly Care*. New York: Lennart Nordenfelt.

In chapter ten of this book it discussed elderly care and the responsibilities it entails. Often nurses provide stay at home care for the elderly and do simple chores such as run errands, keep the house clean, etc. Nurses also help them become rehabilitated in the comfort of their own home. This book really connected with me because my great-grandmother eventually had to have a stay at home nurse and it is something I vividly remember.

Stiller, R. (2015) The Doctor Free Office Visit. *Consumer Reports on Health, 27(8)*, 1-5.

This periodical provided information on why people are choosing to go to nurse practitioners and physicians assistants over doctors. It also provides descriptions on all the fields. This related to me because I often think about furthering my education and becoming a nurse practitioner. I shadowed a nurse practitioner and people preferred going to her than to the doctor that she worked under.

Nursing. (2013). *In Encycloepedia Britannica*. Retrieved from <http://www.britannica.com/topic/nursing>

This encyclopedia provided history on nursing. It also described the different fields and certifications you can achieve when becoming a nurse. It discussed women nursing, and nursing of the elderly as well.