**Topic 1 DQ 1**

PICOT is utilized by the health care community to identify and study a nursing practice problem. Consequently, PICOT examples that may provide insight into the use of the PICOT process may not be relevant to nursing practice as they are based on a medical practice problem.

Define evidence-based practice. Describe the difference between a nursing practice problem and a medical practice problem. Provide one example of each. Discuss why is it important to ensure your PICOT is based on a nursing practice problem.

**Topic 1 DQ 2**

Nursing research is used to study a dilemma or a problem in nursing. Examine a problem you have seen in nursing. Provide an overview of the problem and discuss how addressing the problem through nursing research can improve patient outcomes. Provide rationale and support for your answer.

##### Week 1: PICOT Question and Literature Search

The first step of the evidence-based practice process is to evaluate a nursing practice environment to identify a nursing problem in the clinical area. When a nursing problem is discovered, the nurse researcher develops a clinical guiding question to address that nursing practice problem.

For this assignment, you will create a clinical guiding question know as a PICOT question. The PICOT question must be relevant to a nursing practice problem.

Use the "Literature Evaluation Table" to complete this assignment. Prior to starting the "Literature Evaluation Table," complete the following:

1. Select a nursing practice problem of interest to use as the focus of your research. Start with the patient population and identify a clinical problem or issue that arises from the patient population.
2. Following the PICOT format, write a PICOT question in your selected area of interest. The PICOT question should be applicable to your proposed capstone project (the project students must complete during their final course in the RN-BSN program of study).
3. Conduct a literature search to locate six research articles focused on your selected nursing practice problem of interest. *Note: This literature search should include three quantitative and three qualitative peer-reviewed research articles to support your nursing practice problem. A mixed methods article can qualify towards meeting a qualitative or quantitative methodology*.

Articles must be published within the last 5 years, appropriate for the assignment criteria, and relevant to nursing practice.

The PICOT question and six peer-reviewed research articles you choose will be utilized for subsequent assignments. The PICOT question will also provide a framework for your capstone project.

Note: To assist in your search, remove the words *qualitative* and *quantitative* and include words that narrow or broaden your main topic. For example: Search for *diabetes* and *pediatric* and *dialysis*. To determine what research design was used in the articles the search produced, review the abstract and the methods section of the article. The author will provide a description of data collection using qualitative or quantitative methods. Systematic reviews, literature reviews, and metanalysis articles are good resources and provide a strong level of evidence but are not considered primary research articles. Therefore, they should not be included in this assignment.

While APA style is not required for the body of this assignment, solid academic writing is expected, and documentation of sources should be presented using APA formatting guidelines, which can be found in the APA Style Guide, located in the Student Success Center.

This assignment uses a rubric. Please review the rubric prior to beginning the assignment to become familiar with the expectations for successful completion.

You are not required to submit this assignment to LopesWrite.

**Topic 2 DQ 1**

Qualitative data have been described as voluminous and sometimes overwhelming to the researcher. Discuss two strategies that would help a researcher manage and organize the data.

**Topic 2 DQ 2**

The three types of qualitative research designs are phenomenological, grounded theory, and ethnographic research. Compare the differences and similarities between two of the three types of qualitative studies and give an example of each.

Week 2: Rough Draft Qualitative Research Critique and Ethical Considerations

n this assignment, you will write a critical appraisal that demonstrates comprehension of two qualitative research studies.

For this assignment, use the nursing practice problem and two qualitative peer-reviewed research articles you identified in Topic 1 (or two new articles based on instructor feedback in Topic 1). In a 1,000-1,250-word essay, summarize two qualitative studies.

Use the "Research Critique Guidelines – Part I" document to organize your essay.

You are required to cite a minimum of three peer-reviewed sources to complete this assignment. Sources must be published within the last 5 years, appropriate for the assignment criteria, and relevant to nursing practice.

Prepare this assignment according to the guidelines found in the APA Style Guide, located in the Student Success Center.

This assignment uses a rubric. Please review the rubric prior to beginning the assignment to become familiar with the expectations for successful completion.

You are required to submit this assignment to LopesWrite. A link to the LopesWrite technical support articles is located in Class Resources if you need assistance.

**Topic 3 DQ 1**

Provide examples of experimental and nonexperimental research design. Contrast the levels of control applied to each.

**Topic 3 DQ 2**

Describe sampling theory and provide examples to illustrate your definition. Discuss generalizability as it applies to nursing research.

##### Week 3: Rough Draft Qualitative Research Critique and Ethical Considerations

In this assignment, you will write a critical appraisal that demonstrates comprehension of two quantitative research studies.

Use the practice problem and two quantitative, peer-reviewed research articles you identified in the Topic 1 assignment (or two new articles based on instructor feedback in Topic 1) to complete this assignment.

In a 1,000–1,250-word essay, summarize two quantitative studies.

Use the "Research Critique Guidelines – Part II" document to organize your essay.

You are required to cite a minimum of three peer-reviewed sources to complete this assignment. Sources must be published within the last 5 years, appropriate for the assignment criteria, and relevant to nursing practice.

Prepare this assignment according to the guidelines found in the APA Style Guide, located in the Student Success Center.

This assignment uses a rubric. Please review the rubric prior to beginning the assignment to become familiar with the expectations for successful completion.

You are required to submit this assignment to LopesWrite. A link to the LopesWrite technical support articles is located in Class Resources if you need assistance.

**Topic 4 DQ 1**

Compare independent variables, dependent variables, and extraneous variables. Describe two ways that researchers attempt to control extraneous variables. Support your answer with peer-reviewed articles.

**Topic 4 DQ 2**

Describe the seven "levels of evidence" and provide an example of the type of practice change that could result from each.

**Topic 5 DQ 1**

The theoretical foundations of qualitative and quantitative methods are very different, but many researchers believe both methods should be used in the research study to increase validity and reliability. What advantages or disadvantages do you see in using both types of methods in a nursing study? Support your answer with current evidence-based literature.

**Topic 5 DQ 2**

According to the textbook, nurses in various settings are adopting a research-based (or evidence-based) practice that incorporates research findings into their decisions and interactions with patients. How do you see this being applied in your workplace? In addition, how can you strive to make spirituality and self-care a practice for your patients as well as yourself? How does this practice align with the Christian worldview?

**Topic 5 Research Critiques and PICOT Statement Final Draft**

Prepare this assignment as a 1,500-1,750-word paper using the instructor feedback from the previous course assignments and the guidelines below.

**PICOT Question**

Revise the PICOT question you wrote in the Topic 1 assignment using the feedback you received from your instructor.  
The final PICOT question will provide a framework for your capstone project (the project students must complete during their final course in the RN-BSN program of study).

**Research Critiques**

In the Topic 2 and Topic 3 assignments, you completed qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research critiques on two articles for each type of study (four articles total). Use the feedback you received from your instructor on these assignments to finalize the critical analysis of each study by making appropriate revisions.

The completed analysis should connect to your identified practice problem of interest that is the basis for your PICOT question.

Use the "Research Critiques and PICOT Question Guidelines - Final Draft" document to organize your essay. Questions under each heading should be addressed as a narrative in the structure of a formal paper. **Please note that there are two new additional sections: Outcomes Comparison and Proposed Evidence-Based Practice Change**.

**General Requirements**

You are required to cite a minimum of three peer-reviewed sources to complete this assignment. Sources must be published within the last 5 years, appropriate for the assignment criteria, and relevant to nursing practice.

Prepare this assignment according to the guidelines found in the APA Style Guide, located in the Student Success Center.

This assignment uses a rubric. Please review the rubric prior to beginning the assignment to become familiar with the expectations for successful completion.

You are required to submit this assignment to LopesWrite. A link to the LopesWrite technical support articles is located in Class Resources if you need assistance.