**OB Ethics Paper**

**N332- Health Continuum: The Growing Family**

**Purpose of Assignment**

To examine a controversial or politically or publicly debated women’s health, obstetric or neonatal issue and present both sides equally.

**Student Approach to Assignment**

For this assignment I chose to reflect on the controversial topic of whether incarcerated women should be allowed to keep their children. The goal of this analyzation was to illustrate both sides of the issue and to provide readers enough information to make an informed decision when considering the future of the topic.

**Reason for Inclusion of this Assignment in the Portfolio**

This assignment was included in my portfolio, because it demonstrates my ability to provide unbiased information about real world controversial issues. It also reflects my ability to acknowledge and reflect opinion of those that are different than my own. The following strengths in the paper are highlighted below:

* Research
	+ *Applies research-based knowledge from nursing as the basis for culturally sensitive practice*
		- Example: In this paper, I reflected on America’s maternal and neonatal care, and stated that it is based on separation of mother and infant. It is the American culture to separate the mother and the newborn, by having them taken away to be assessed, and keeping them in nurseries. Using nursing research, I pointed out that there is no evidence that separating the mother and newborn is beneficial, and that the mother’s body is the biological place of care for a newborn. The practice of separating the mother and newborn is seen more as a cultural practice that is still done today, despite the research that refutes it.
* Professionalism
	+ *Understands the effect of legal and regulatory processes on nursing practice and health care delivery, as well as limits to one’s own scope of practice*
		- Example: This paper reflects on the history of incarcerated women keeping their children, and how it has caused the nursing practice to adjust to provide holistic care to expecting mothers who are incarcerated. The changes in the legal system have also readdressed how healthcare professionals would provide necessary interventions for these populations while staying within their scope of practice and not overstepping the legal and financial decisions of state and local governments. This limits my scope of practice as a student nurse, because while I may understand the benefits and risks of allowing imprisoned mothers keeping their children, I must act within the state’s rules and regulations on the matter. Additionally, any teachings or recommendations that would be done to these populations must to be within those parameters.
	+ *Applies an ethical decision-making framework and legal guidelines to clinical situations that incorporate moral concepts, professional ethics, and advocacy for patient well-being and preferences*
		- Example: In this paper, I reflected on the ethics of prison nurseries and allowing incarcerated women keep their children, as well as the ethics of separating an incarcerated mother from their child. The ethics of allowing an incarcerated mother to keep their child was supported by the idea that prisons should have more of a focus of reducing recidivism, and that allowing incarcerated mothers to keep their children does that as proven by studies. It was also challenged by stating that it is unethical forcing a child, someone who has not done anything wrong, to live in prison, a punishment for those who do not abide by the law.
* Culture
	+ *Maintains an awareness of global environmental factors that may influence the delivery of health care services*
		- Example: Throughout this paper, it is made clear that a lot has changed since the rise of prison nurseries, and the topic of allowing incarcerated women to keep their children. As times change, more countries are adapting to a new system and more research is continuing to look at this controversy. It is only a matter of time before a consensus is made on how to approach this issue.

**Nursing Honor Code**

**"I pledge to support the Honor System of Old Dominion University. I will**

**refrain from any form of academic dishonesty or deception, such as cheating or plagiarism. I am aware that as a member of the academic community, it is my responsibility to turn in all suspected violators of the Honor Code. I will report to a hearing if summoned.”**

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(Print Name)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Sarah Jean\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: 4.2.19