Example of an Executive Summary for NRS 508

Diers (2001). *Chapter 1 Debate: What is nursing?* Ch. 1 - Executive Summary.

**What?** In response to the question "*What is nursing?*" Diers (2001, p. 8) uses a debate format to examine dictionary, encyclopedia, legal and political definitions of nursing, noting that definitions tend to focus on what nurses do versus what is nursing. "Tilting" and "slippage" are terms Diers uses in her debate. Legal definitions emphasize what nurses do. Nursing theorists contribute to the evolution in their definitions of the term nursing. Economic reengineering of the 1990s resulted in lower morale among nurses, decreasing numbers, and a challenge to quality. The ANA focus on registered nurses in general leaves advanced practice nurses without a consistent organizational champion across the country. Advanced practice nurses now have practice guidelines that vary by state, lack of leadership by a professional organization, as well as legal, political, and economic challenges.

**So what?** Nebraska is an example of a state with a more conservative approach to advanced practice nurses, sometimes shaped heavily with perceived economic challenges by physicians when a collaborative role is defined; advanced practice nurses need to know their state laws related to advanced practice nursing. The Institute of Medicine (IOM) study is mentioned by Diers; the now published IOM report shows correlation
between nursing education/skill mix and improved patient outcomes that can "legitimately be claimed" as the "effects of nursing" (Diers, p. 11). This is supported by research of Hall, Doran, and Pink (2004) on staffing models and patient outcomes.

**What else?** If nursing care correlates with length of stay, nurses must influence the environment of care and thus can justify the higher costs charged to 'nursing' wages, a potentially large budget item. Furthermore, advanced practice nurses must document with research the positive and economic impact on patient outcomes.

**Now what?** Use of the IOM report and other evidence-based practice reports, research utilization, and participation in research are important means to justify nursing. Focusing on positive outcomes for quality patient care supported by research can potentially help lessen conflict and promote advanced practice nursing. It is important to educate students at every level of the curriculum and staff nurses about research utilization, and to encourage advanced practice nurses' collaborate in the conducting of research that documents the positive impact of nursing on patient outcomes. Becoming involved and sharing this information about how nurses make a difference with those at the local, state, and federal level can ultimately advance the profession of nursing, promote autonomy, contribute to nurses' economic welfare, and promote quality healthcare outcomes.
References
