**Example of SEEI Assignment for NSC 383**

**State:**
I believe critical thinking in nursing to be creative and rational thinking in which data, observations, and previous knowledge are analyzed, interpreted, and evaluated in order to bring about responsible solutions and ideas, free from bias and prejudice, to provide the best possible outcomes for patients.

**Elaborate:**
In other words, critical thinking involves analyzing and evaluating information and using deductive reasoning to make complex decisions in the delivery of competent and productive patient care. It requires actively processing this information, to apply and validate existing knowledge, and create new knowledge. It involves reflective thinking and requires keen observation. Critical thinking is systematic and logical and leads to problem solving and critical decision-making. According to Turner (2005), "critical thinking is defined as purposeful, self-regulatory judgment which results in interpretation, analysis, evaluation, inference, as well as the explanation of the evidential, conceptual, methodological, criteriological, or contextual considerations upon which that judgment was based" (p 274). It is a highly important skill for nurses to attain and is the basis on which quality nursing care is provided. These critical thinking nursing skills are essential to promote and provide competent decisions to ensure the safety and well being of patients. Good clinical decisions are based on a nurse's ability to think critically and creatively, so nurses must strive to use and improve the quality of their thinking skills to help ensure optimal patient care and outcomes.

**Example:**
Turner (2005) provides an example of critical thinking in nursing practice retrieved from an article titled "Six Critical Thinking Skills for at-Bedside-Success", in which an inexperienced nurse used critical thinking skills, such as analysis, interpretation of data, and reasoning to make inferences based on her previous knowledge. She used diagnostic reasoning and the nursing process in a situation in which a post-op patient with recent foot surgery was unable to void. The patient was having to be straight-cathed every eight hours and had no previous urinary retention problems. After a review of her medications, the nurse discovered the patient was taking Ditropan b.i.d for stress incontinence. Post-op, the doctor had ordered for her medications to be resumed. The nurse, suspecting that the Ditropan was causing the patient's urinary retention, decided to make a clinical judgment to hold the medication and notify the doctor. As stated earlier, the nurse's previous medication knowledge along with analysis and evaluation of the information lead to a clinical decision which she felt was in the best interest of her patient.

Illustration:

Critical thinking in nursing can be compared with conducting a symphony. Whereas conducting a symphony requires having the skilled instruments in an orchestra to produce the appropriate musical sound, critical thinking in nursing requires having the skills of knowledge, assessment, analysis, and judgment to make sound nursing decisions. They both also require creativity, whether it be creating masterful and stimulating music or coming up with stimulating and thought-provoking ideas. They are both skills that must be practiced regularly to be mastered.

Reference