

The Ideal Intervention Paper (IIP) Exercise For Clinical Pastoral Education Curricula

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The IIP Writing Exercise Defined: A second round of a verbatim study that incorporates feedback from the verbatim discussion in a peer group, along with outside research, resulting in a fairly detailed written description of a recommendation for a more ideal pastoral intervention for the original pastoral visit: “What would I do differently if called to a similar situation in the future?”

Verbatim	<i>compared with</i>	Ideal Intervention Paper
Personal emotions		Actions
Feeling		Thinking
Being		Doing
Personal Provider		Pastoral Practice
Motivations		Professional Skills
Asks: “Why did I minister in this way?”		Asks: “What actions would have been more effective?”

Unique Advantages for CPE students writing an IIP:

- Places the focus on improving service to the patient.
- Allows a student to “improve” on a visit that may have been felt to be unsatisfactory.
- Directly engages ACPE Level II outcomes.
- Deeper integration of personal awareness while also developing clinical skills for pastoral care.
- Completes the CPE values of: “Action — Reflection — Renewed Action”.
- Ensures that a student truly hears and understands the feedback of group members.
- Encourages the caregiver to find alternative ways to provide pastoral care for particular problems or issues presented by a patient.
- Focuses on the development of clinical skills.
- Compares to a physician’s “case study” that can be used to demonstrate learning from experience.
- Provides evidence for administrators of continuing improvement in departmental pastoral care practices and education for chaplains.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: The Verbatim is a lengthy process. Why add more?

A: The IIP ensures that the student will be able to apply learning to future ministry encounters by focusing on changing actions as well as attitudes.

Q: Should new CPE students in first units use IIPs?

A: There has not been enough experience to make a definite conclusion, but residents who have used the IIP have recommended that CPE students have at least one unit of verbatims before adding the IIP, so that they have a basic self-awareness.

Q: What kind of training do I need as a supervisor to introduce the IIP to my students?

A: A free packet is available to you with a step-by-step guide. Other background materials are available in previous newsletters of the on line *ACPE Research Network* website. It is also helpful for you to complete an IIP yourself to experience the difference between a verbatim and an IIP.

Q: Who can answer my questions once I begin this process?

A: John Gleason is available for consultation by email (j_mgleason@juno.com) or phone (317-887-3341).