

## Building Language Skills with The Seattle Times

October 29, 2015

**Article: "Careers in Nursing"**

**Monday, October 25, 2015** in the e-Edition of The Seattle Times, Main, A11

### **Pre-Reading:**

Before reading the article, read the title and look at the images. Do you think a career in nursing might be a good fit for you? Why or why not? What do you expect to learn about nursing in his article?

### **Vocabulary:**

As you read, look for the following vocabulary words that appear in today's article. Write down what you think the words mean based on the "context," or how the words are used in the sentence in which they appear. Next, look up the definitions in a dictionary and see how close your guess was for each word.

*registered nurses*

*terminology*

*associate's degree*

*clinic*

*technical college*

*therapists*

*monitor*

*vital*

*organs*

*surgical*

*squeamish*

*firsthand*

*potential*

*underrepresented*

### **Comprehension:**

1. What type of nurses is there a high need for?
2. Name three settings in which a registered nurse can work.
3. Why do nurses need to have strong reading and writing abilities?
4. In what way are nurses “translators”?
5. Do nurses work alone or with other professionals?
6. Why is having a Bachelor’s in Nursing (BSN) valuable?
7. What is an alternative to a BSN to start a nursing career?
8. An LPN works under whose supervision?
9. What is the average salary of a nurse in Washington state?
10. What courses should you take in middle and high school to prepare you for a career in nursing?
11. What are healthcare camps?
12. Why is it valuable to talk to a relative, family friend or neighbor who is a nurse?
13. If you are squeamish and don’t like blood does that mean you can’t be a nurse?

### **Post-Reading:**

**Read the following passage from the article and discuss the following questions in a group:**

**“Because nursing requires great communication skills, nurses must have strong reading and writing abilities to quickly and accurately analyze information and explain it clearly to patients and their families. They often “translate” hard-to-understand medical terminology into simple, everyday terms.”**

Why does nursing require excellent communication skills? What other careers require excellent communication, analysis and “translation” skills? How can you further these skills while you are in school? What other skills set nurses apart from other professions?

### **Building Language Skills:**

**Read the following passage, and complete the activity below:**

**“Go on the Washington Center for Nursing website at <http://www.wcnursing.org> to see what you’ll be able to do once you become a nurse. . . For more information about careers in nursing, the Washington Center for Nursing is an excellent resource. If you want to spend your time helping others and making sure people are healthy, nursing should be in your future!”**

Visit the above website. Research WA Nurse Camps, Role in Nursing, and Nursing Education. In addition to what you learned in this article, what did you learn about careers in nursing which you did not know before? Whether or not you pursue a career in nursing, what are your next steps to learn about a career which interests you? Summarize your reading and conclusions in a short essay to share with a classmate.

### Comprehension Question Answers:

1. There is a high need for nurses who represent all ethnic groups and other underrepresented populations.
2. Nurses can work in hospitals, clinics, schools, community health centers, long-term-care for the elderly, and/or people with disabilities, home health, colleges and universities, the military, jails and prisons, businesses and the government.
3. Nurses need to have strong reading and writing abilities to quickly and accurately analyze information and explain it clearly to patients and their families.
4. Nurses are translators because they often “translate” hard-to-understand medical terminology into simple, everyday, terms.
5. Nurses work alone or with other healthcare professionals, such as physicians and therapists.
6. Having a BSN is valuable because what nurses need to know about giving health care is growing. Having a BSN also provides more career opportunities.
7. You can also start a nursing career by becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN).
8. AN LPN works under the supervision of a Registered Nurse (RN).
9. The average salary of a nurse in Washington state is \$67,000/ year.
10. You should take courses algebra, geometry, biology, chemistry and computers.
11. Healthcare camps allow students to spend time with nurses and meet other students interested in nursing.
12. Talking with someone who is a nurse can provide you with valuable advice. Ask that person about their work, what they enjoy about the job and what they find difficult.
13. No, it doesn't. Nursing is a broad field so you could focus on research or education instead.