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You will need to carefully read the selection below and complete various activities using the essay as your basis.

Using the highlight function on your computer, you will need to mark the essay below. It will be necessary for you to read the essay several times to fully understand the essay and complete the markings in such a way that demonstrates a close reading of the essay. You will need to use the following chart to correctly mark the essay.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Highlight Color | Item to be identified | Use an X to indicate you have accomplished this task. Use NA if this task did not apply to this essay. |
| PINK | Mark the main idea of the essay. |  |
| AQUA | Mark key examples/ support for the main idea/ theme of the essay. |  |
| GREEN | Mark statements that you agree with . |  |
| YELLOW | Mark statements that are new to you or make you think in a new way. |  |
| RED | Mark statements in the essay that you disagree with. |  |
| GRAY | Mark terms/ concepts that you found difficult to understand. |  |

The time I began reading and marking this assignment was:

I believe that, as a doctor, I should always get a blanket for my patients who need one. Yes I know there are other people who can do this. I can ask a nurse or an orderly to do it, but I believe that I should do it. So several times a day, while working in our emergency department, I leave my patient’s bedside, get them a nice warm blanket and cover them up, before continuing on my day.

This action goes along with what I believe to be the three rules of emergency medicine (and perhaps medicine in general). I repeat these often to the residents and medical students I supervise in our busy urban emergency department.

I tell them: (1) we make people feel better; (2) we try to make sure nothing really bad is happening to them right now; and (3), we try to tell them what is causing their symptoms. I say that we can almost always achieve the first two rules but not always the third. No news is usually good news from an ER doctor. If I find a reason for, say, your abdominal pain it is rarely a good thing.

Which brings me back to why I believe I should offer to bring my patients a blanket. To me it is the first step in communicating to the person that my priority is his or her comfort, both physical and emotional. It is a simple act that acknowledges my desire to meet their basic needs as a patient. It may be an overused expression but I want to treat my patients the way I would want my family members taken care of. This behavior was also modeled for me when I was a patient.

Shortly after college I was involved in a serious accident while working in an ambulance as a volunteer. The short story is that I broke my femur, the large bone in my thigh, and my recovery required a total of four surgeries over a year or so. The surgeon who performed the last three operations (and to whom I credit my ability to now walk unaided) usually did his rounds late at night.

He was a brilliant and talented surgeon who reminded me in appearance of a chain-smoking Einstein. He would ask about my pain and my mental state, but what I remember most is his offering to bring me French fries the next time he visited. I felt that he cared about me and, more importantly, understood what I was going through. He connected with me, and I trusted and obeyed everything he told me to do.

Getting a blanket and placing it on my patient is, in the end, a check and balance for me. I have the power to order hundreds of tests and treatments. I strive to always be right (or at least never wrong). And on not so rare occasions, I help save a life. But in the end, if I have not made that connection with my patient, if I have not shown them I understand their needs, then I have failed them as a physician and as a person.

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| Your response should be self-contained. When someone reads your responses, they should be able to tell which question you are responding to.In marking the essay you should be clear in what idea and item you are reacting to. The markings should indicate a close and personal reading of the essay. Excessive markings or lack of markings may indicate a failure to have closely read and comprehended the essay. |  |
| Based on your reading and marking of the essay identify the main idea of the essay as well as support including direct quotations and evidence from the essay. Your response should be limited to no more than one (1) well written and adequately edited paragraph. |  |
| Using at least two (2) of the writing prompts below and in no more than three (3) well written and adequately edited paragraphs create a response to the essay:* The part (s) of the essay I agreed with were
* The part (s) of the essay I disagreed with were
* This essay reminded me of/ made me think of
* This essay made me think in a new way
* This essay was similar to another essay
 |  |
| What question (s) would you like to ask the author of this essay? Explain your reasoning for wanting to have the answer to this question. |  |
| Having now read this essay I… |  |
| **Presenters Only:** You will need to have three (3) questions that you would like to present to your classmates during your seminar. |  |

The time I completed reading and marking this assignment was: