Shapiro, Johanna

From: Shapiro, Johanna

Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 2:58 PM

To:

Subject: RE: Credit for missed classes

Hi , I'm not familiar with this movie, but I think I get the idea. What I like about this reflection is that you've chosen something very ordinary - kicking back to watch "mindless" entertainment - and realized that at every moment we are expressing our values, priorities, and convictions. I am not making a moral judgment about shoot-'em-ups. But if you stop to think about how casually we enjoy and even celebrate killing and violent death in this culture (even if it is the "bad guy" going down), it gives you pause. At least it gave you pause, and I'm glad for that. Of course, the fantasy death of a celluloid bad guy is a very different thing from the death of an innocent child. But it is reasonable to ask whether we are the ones who should be deciding whose deaths are "justified," and whose we should mourn. What I have always admired about medicine is, as a profession, it tries not to ask those questions; and takes a stand against suffering, no matters whose it is.

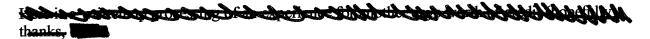
I'm sorry you had such a rough time on PICU. Sick and dying kids are about as senseless as it gets. Personally, I have never really found a satisfactory rationale for this kind of suffering in any religion. Perhaps that is what faith is all about, somehow trusting that dying kids make more sense than appears to us mere humans. Going from the sublime to the mundane, if you end up not enjoying this genre of movies in the future, I'm pretty sure you will find some good substitutes:-). Dr. Shapiro P.S. I don't know if you still need any more make-up assignments; but if you want, you could write something about how a particular church service/sermon etc. spoke to you about the kind of physician you'd like to be. I'm only suggesting this because you've shared about the important role your faith plays in your life, so I was thinking this might be pertinent.

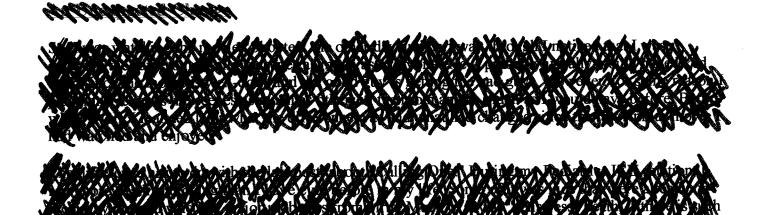
From: @gmail.com [mail.com]

Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 10:59 PM

To: Shapiro, Johanna

Subject: Re: Credit for missed classes







On Fri, Feb 22, 2008 at 4:06 PM, Shapiro, Johanna < jfshapir@uci.edu> wrote:

Hite Thanks for sending us this moving reflection. I've heard many students say that the act of pronouncing the patient, even if it is something of a ritual, produces a very different reaction to that patient's loss. Maybe it's because you are the person officially responsible for transitioning the patient from life to death. You know, physicians (and student-physicians) have many different emotional responses that are triggered by the deaths of different patients. Sometimes you feel accepting, even relieved; other times you are angry, devastated, despondent; sometimes, to be honest, you don't really care all that intensely, more as a kind of non-specific sorrow for the passing of any life. Clearly, with this little patient, there were many threads binding you to her and her family. Your tears honored those ties, and acknowledged the courage of the father who continued to be a father even beyond death. I completely agree with your self-assessment. You will not cry at the death of every patient, nor should you. But that you can cry when a loss touches you deeply is indeed a sign that you have remained whole, which is both a good thing for you and also a good thing for your future patients. I am grateful for your sharing your thoughts and feelings about this tragic situation; and happy that, surrounded by this level of suffering, you did not turn away from either child or parents, but paid close attention emotionally and spiritually.

In terms of your class participation, perhaps you (or Dr. It can calculate what you will need to pass the course (I don't have the attendance record). We have three more sessions; the BBQ at Dr. R's house; and the final project (for which you can assume full credit). The assignment below can take the place of one class attendance.

Once we know where you stand, we can figure out what is still needed. Best, Dr. Shapiro

Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2008 11:03 PM To: Subject: Credit for missed classes	
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thanks, Indiana.	
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