

3/11/2008

all  
P

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

Hi [REDACTED]. 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. [REDACTED]) 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

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2008 11:03 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Credit for missed classes

thanks, [REDACTED]