

(Opening slides 1-2)

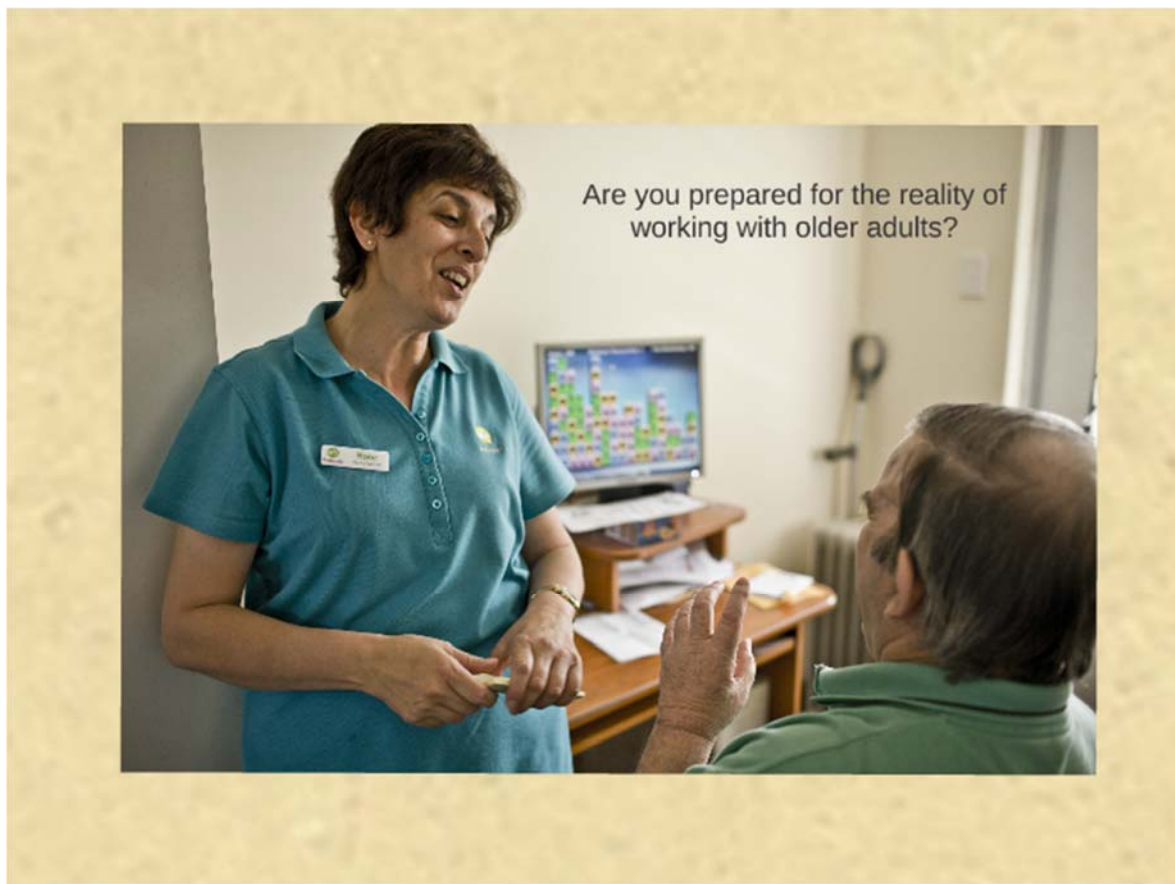


Hello, my name is Christopher Etherton-Beer and I'd like to introduce you to this session called Depth of Field - Exploring Ageing as part of your preparation for field work in geriatric medicine.

"Art sensitively shapes our experiences of the world by evoking new possibility. If art just simply conveyed what is customary and familiar, there would be little tendency to reflect. The power of works of art is that they "are means by which we enter, through imagination and the emotions they evoke, into other forms of relationship and participation than our own"

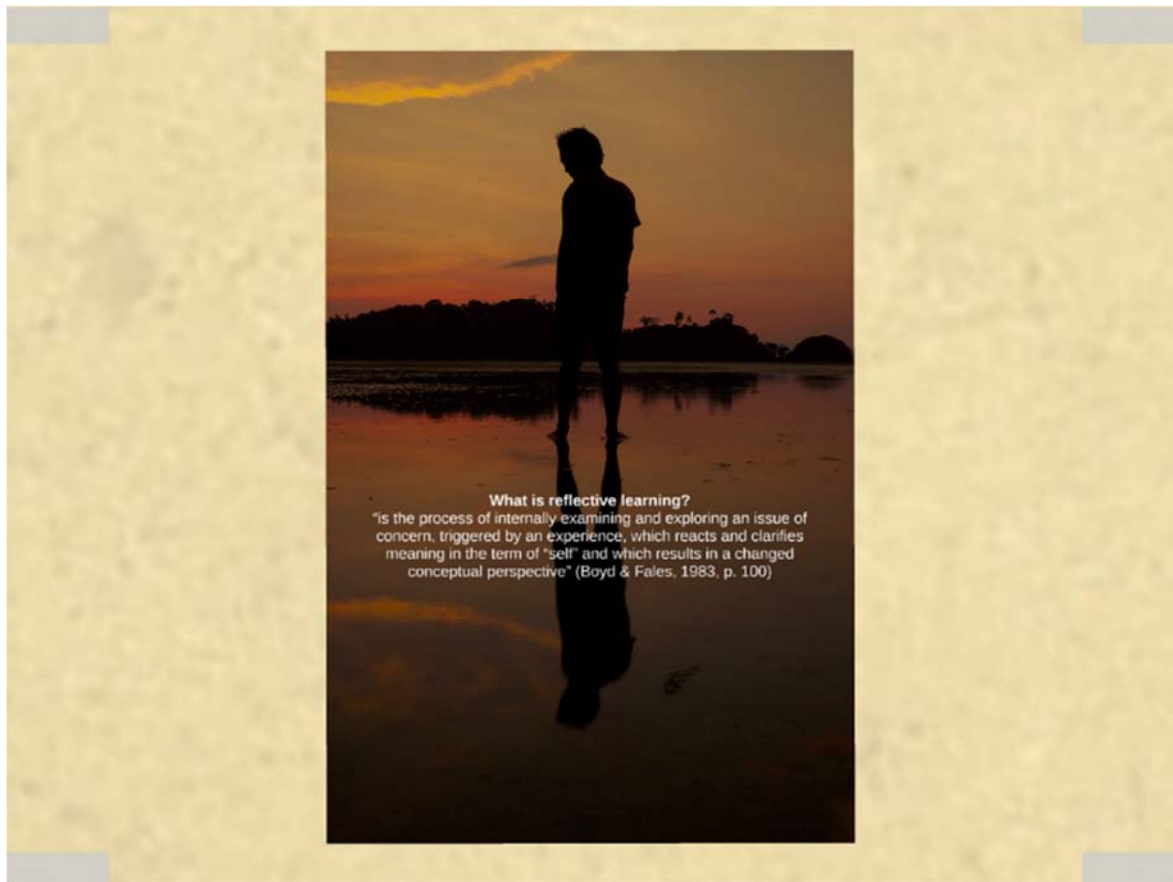
Dewey, as cited in McClelland, 2005, p. 60

(Slide 3) Are you prepared for the reality of working with older adults?



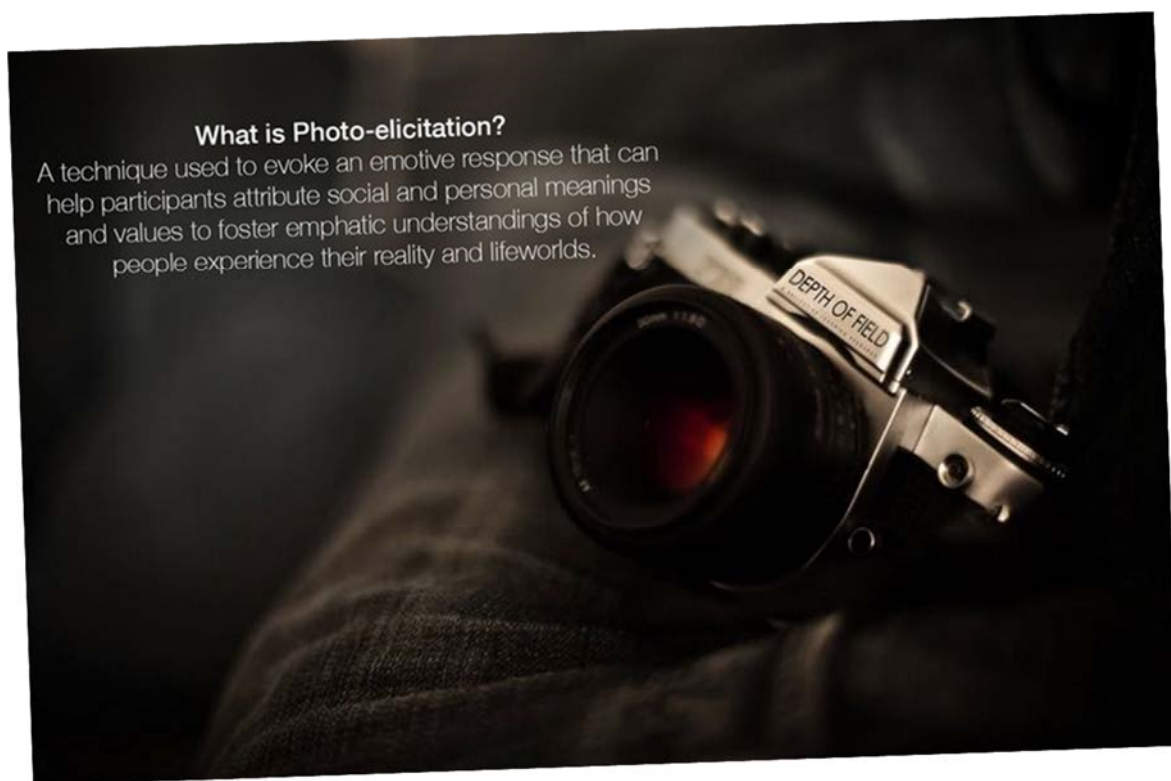
Over the last hundred years we have witnessed great advances in medicine, public health science, and technology which has enabled us to live to an older age. It is therefore not surprising that older adults are now the largest consumers receiving care in the tertiary and community sector in Australia. It is therefore vitally important to prepare you to care for ageing populations within our complex healthcare systems in Australia, and part of that preparation is to bring your perceptions of older adults into clearer focus including an awareness of ageism and negative stereotypes that still persist towards older people in today's society. This learning resource will use photographs and reflective questioning prompts to encourage you to explore and reflect on your perceptions of caring for older adults.

(Slide 4) ***So, what is reflective learning?***



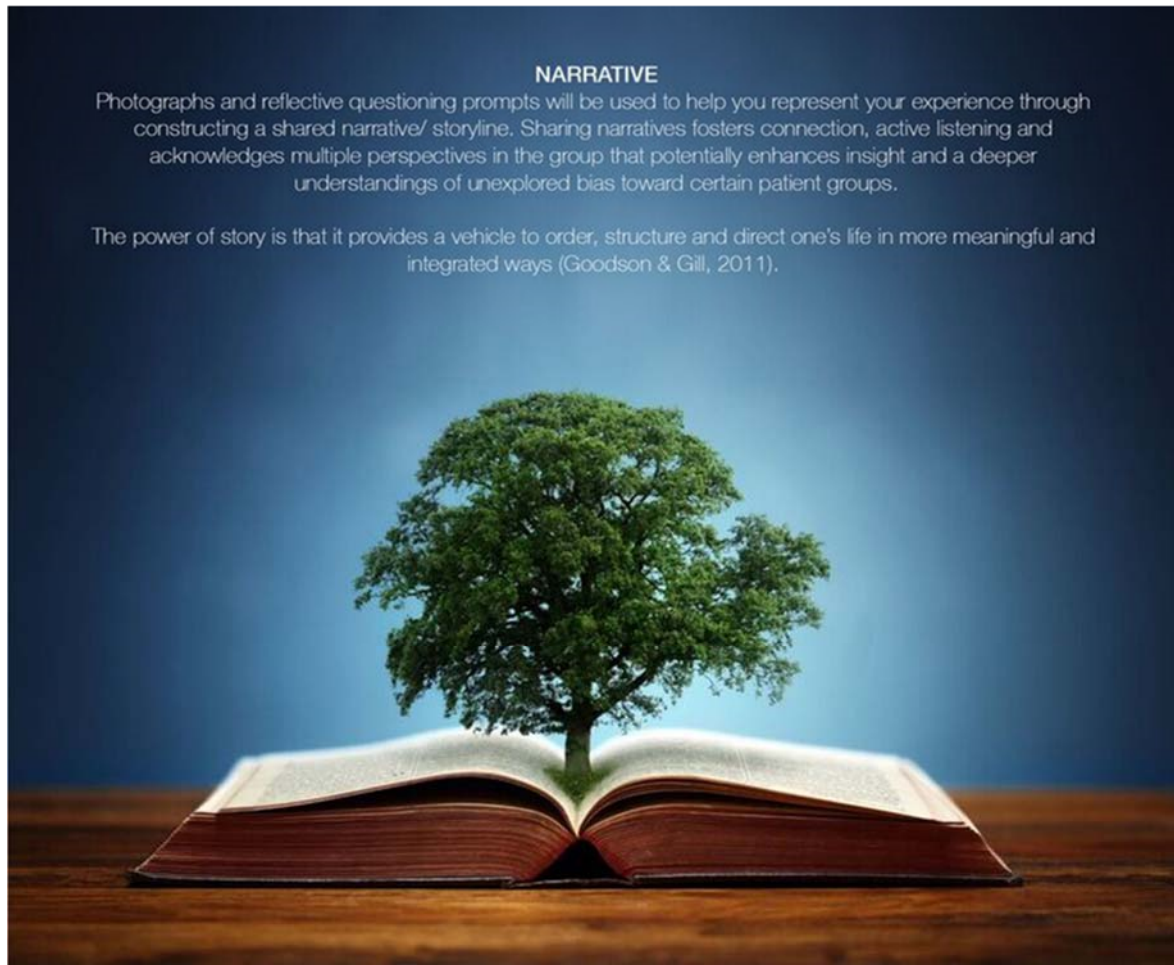
Boyd and Fales describe it as a process of internally examining and exploring an issue of concern that's triggered by an experience which reacts and clarifies meaning in terms of self and which results in a changed conceptual perspective. Reflection is really important as it fosters the development of our core medical values including compassion, respect, empathy, and kindness that is essential in delivering patient centered care. However, despite reflective capacity being specified as an essential requirement for doctors, there still remains a myth that reflection is intuitive when it's actually not. It's a learned concept – so today you will have the opportunity to practice reflection in your group.

(Slide 5) **What is photo elicitation?**



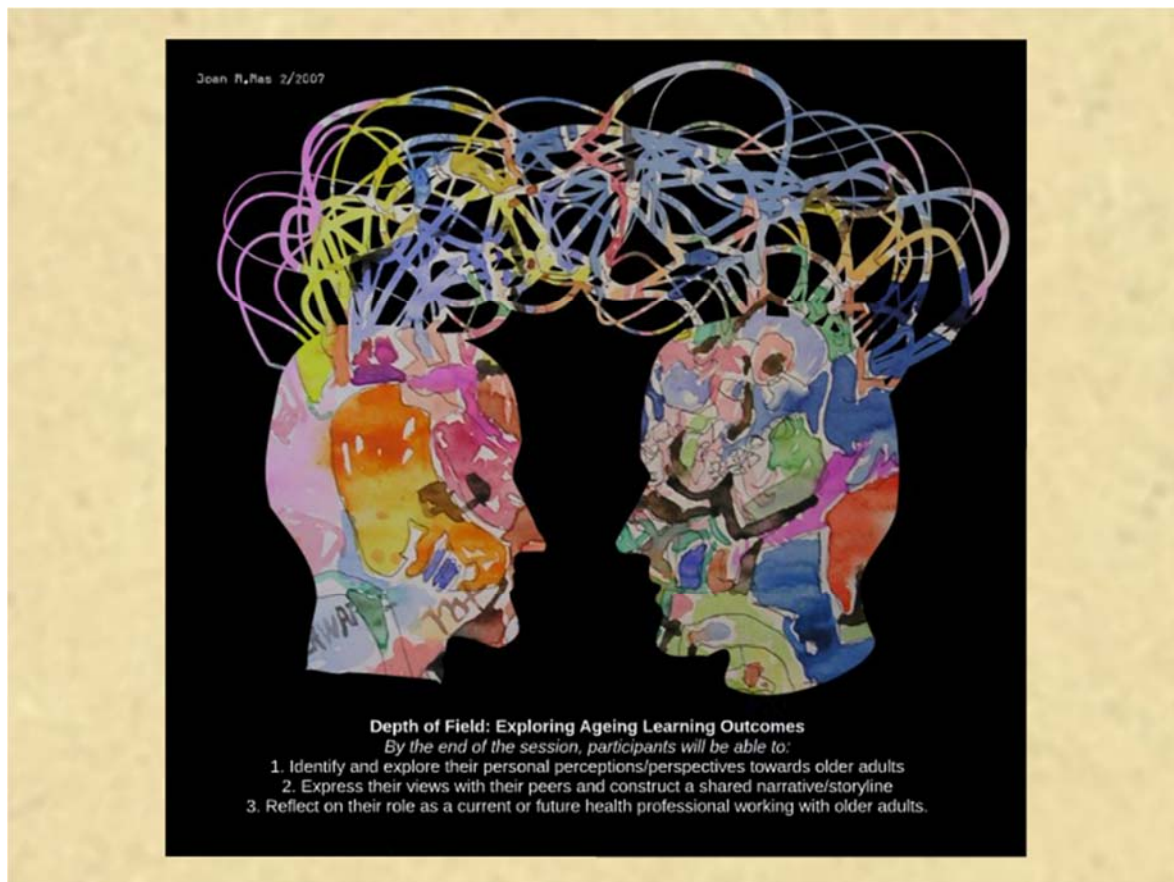
It's a technique that is used to evoke an emotional response that can help you attribute social and personal meanings and values to foster empathetic understandings of how people experience their realities and their life worlds. There has been a recent focus on integrating arts, like photographs and narratives, into traditionally based Health Professions curriculum and this is an important step in fostering that aesthetic knowing which involves imagination, empathy, insights, perceptions and really understanding the lived experiences of older people.

(Slide 6: Narrative)



Photographs and reflective questioning prompts will be used to help you represent your experiences and you'll be asked to construct a shared narrative or storyline in your group. Sharing narratives fosters connection, active listening and acknowledges multiple perspectives in groups that potentially enhances insight, and a deeper understanding of any unexplored biases towards certain patient groups. In essence, today the act of listening and sharing stories with each other may provide you with access to a new source of ideas extending your vision and broadening your worldview perspective around ageing.

(Slide 7: Learning outcomes slide)



So today in the session the learning outcomes will include you being able to identify and explore your personal perceptions and perspectives towards older adults; that you will be able to express your view with your peers and construct a shared narrative or storyline together; and have time to reflect on your role as a future doctor working with older adults before you go out on your placement.

Slide 8: Instructions

Instructions

1. Get into groups of 3-4 persons
2. Firstly, spend some time individually looking at the photograph (write down some words and/or thoughts or feelings).
3. The photographs and reflective questioning prompts are designed to evoke question and dialogue. Engaging in reflective dialogue with your peers enhances your understanding of your perceptions of older adults. Respond to the 5 or 6 reflective questioning prompts in your groups (make sure everyone has a turn to share their comments/thoughts)
4. **REMEMBER** – there is no right or wrong answers – Individual people will see and react to the same photograph in his/her own way.
5. Be Creative - Use your imagination

*This is a safe learning environment whereby all comments/stories are valued, acknowledged and kept confidential. Some photographs may evoke emotions and/or trigger thought processes that will help foster reflection by bringing feelings to the surface and providing a space for you to share your experiences of older adults. It is up to you what you disclose and at what depth you choose to share with other group members.

“ Imagination is everything.



It is the preview of life's coming attractions." **Albert Einstein**

The facilitator will show you a series of photographs of older people. Firstly, maybe spend some time individually looking at the photograph. You might like to write down some words or thoughts or feelings that pop into your head. The photographs and reflective questioning prompts are designed to evoke questions and dialogue, and then engaging in reflective dialogue with your peers enhances your understanding of your perceptions of older adults. You'll be asked to respond to five or six photographs with reflective questioning prompts in your groups. Make sure that everyone has a turn to share their comments or thoughts and remember there is no right or wrong answers: individual people will see and react to the same photograph in their own way. You need to be creative, use your imagination, and remember that this is a safe learning environment where all comments and stories are valued, acknowledged and kept confidential. Some photographs may evoke emotions or trigger thought processes that will help foster reflection by bringing those feelings to the surface and providing a space for you to share your experiences of older adults, even personal experiences. But it's up to you what you disclose and what depth you choose to share with your group members. I hope you enjoy this session and enjoy your geriatric medicine placement.

(Slide 9: Funding and acknowledgements)

Funding

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Acknowledgements

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