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The Adventures of Super Nurse: using technology to enhance student engagement in nursing curriculum

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Background
The Nature of Nursing module aims to help students develop a professional identity that is principle and theory based. The module addresses the elements of nursing’s metaparadigm; nursing knowledge, professional issues and promoting health, augmented by theories of communication, which are core to the profession. At the end of the module students were asked to think creatively to portray in groups their understanding of the Nature of Nursing. We present one group’s depiction.

Methods
Development of a comic strip presentation inspired the students to develop a piece which was eye catching and fun and encompassed the four strands of the module. The Super Nurse was used as an empowering image to illustrate the weight and nature of the profession. Super Nurse within the comic strip takes the viewer through various scenarios relating to the module in a light hearted manner. Use of technology helped convey understanding of the module to both lecturers and fellow students.

Results
- Linking of theory to practice
- Development of IT and presentation skills
- Good fun to do
- Felt more engaged in the learning process
- Pulled together the different strands of the module

Conclusion
Using technology creatively in teaching/learning and assessment strategies allowed for individual learning styles, and empowered and engaged students. This links to the QAA Enhancement Theme: Personalisation of the First Year, which aims to acknowledge individual learning styles, engage and empower students and exploit the potential of new technologies.

Reference
QAA (2008) Quality Enhancement Themes The first year experience QAA Scotland