

Effective Rethinking and Paired Relaxation

Due Date: _____ Name: _____ Week Starting: _____

Step 1. Describe one typical **prompting event** for distress in your life: What led up to what? What is it about this event that is a problem for you? Be very specific in your answers. Use describing skills. Check the facts.

Step 2. Ask: “What must I be telling myself (or what are my **interpretations and thoughts**) about this event that contributes to my stress?” **Write them down.**

Step 3. Rethink the thoughts that lead to distress. Rethinking involves reevaluating the situation and its meaning in ways that counteract stress-producing thoughts and thereby reduce stress responses. **Write down** as many effective thoughts as you can to replace the stressful thoughts.

Step 4. Did you practice **in your imagination** effective rethinking of a stressful situation this week? Yes ____ No ____

If you engaged in rethinking, did it reduce fear of the situation happening again? (0–5, 0 = not at all; 5 = very much): ____

What effective thoughts did you use to replace stress-causing thoughts?

Rate average level of relaxation (0–100): Before ____ After ____

Step 5. Did you practice **rethinking plus paired relaxation**? Yes ____ No ____

If you engaged in rethinking plus paired relaxation, did it help you reduce your stress? (0–5, 0 = not at all; 5 = very much): ____

What effective thoughts did you use to replace stress-causing thoughts?

Comments: