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Cbt challenging thoughts worksheet

Challenging Anxious Thoughts

Anxiety can be a healthy reminder to us to focus our problems, and work hard to solve them. But sometimes it grows out of control, and does just the opposite. It cripples our ability to solve problems. When this happens, irrational thoughts often play a role.

In this exercise, we will practice catching our irrational thoughts, and replacing them with rational alternatives. With enough practice, this will become a natural process that can help manage anxiety.

Describe a common situation that triggers your anxiety:

Anxiety drives our thinking to causing us to overestimate the likelihood of something going wrong, and imagine the potential consequences as worse than they really are. Sometimes, just taking a moment to think about these facts can help us recognize our irrational thoughts.

Imagine you are faced with the anxiety producing situation from above. Describe the...

Worst outcome:
Best outcome:
Likely outcome:

Imagine the worst outcome comes true. Would it still matter...

1 week from now:
1 month from now:
1 year from now:

Usually, anxious thoughts focus on the worst possible outcomes, even when they aren't likely. For example, a person who worries about giving a speech might think, "I am going to forget everything and embarrass myself, and I'll never get another job."

As an outside observer, we know that an alternate, more rational thought might be: "My speech might only be OK, but if I do mess up, everyone will forget about it soon enough."

Using your own "worst outcome" and "likely outcome" from above, describe your...

Preview

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CBT Thought Record

Situation	Emotion or feeling	Negative automatic thought	Evidence that supports the thought	Evidence that does not support the thought	Alternative thought
<small>Describe what was happening. Who, what, where, when?</small>	<small>Describe how you felt. What were your physical sensations?</small>	<small>Identify one thought you had at that time. Was it angry, sad, scared? How did it feel?</small>	<small>What experiences indicate that this thought is not true?</small>	<small>What experiences indicate that this thought is not true?</small>	<small>Write a new thought which takes account of the evidence for and against the original thought.</small>

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Anger Thought Challenging Record			
Situation	Angry hot thought	Emotions & body sensations	Balance
<small>Describe what happened. Who else was there?</small>	<small>What was your angry thought?</small>	<small>Describe how you felt. What were your physical sensations?</small>	<small>How balanced was your thought?</small>
<small>Put here or ignore if memory, what did you say?</small>			

Challenging Unhelpful Thoughts

Taking a particular unhelpful thought, see if you can test it. Ask questions to test whether your belief has any real basis.

Unhelpful Thought



Challenges

Is there any evidence that contradicts this thought?

Can you identify any patterns of unhelpful thinking?

What would you say to a friend who had this thought in a similar situation?

What are the costs and benefits of thinking in this way?

Benefits:

Costs:

How will you feel about this in 6 months time?

Is there another way of looking at this situation?

Balanced Thought



PsychPoint: Challenging Negative Thoughts

Challenging Negative Thoughts

What's your negative thought?
What's the evidence for this thought?
What's the evidence against this thought?
Are there other ways of thinking about this?
What's the evidence for these other ways of thinking?
What's the evidence against these other ways of thinking?

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