# Session 9: Processing Trust and Introducing Power/Control

### **Practice Assignment:**

Use the Challenging Beliefs Worksheets (Handout 8.1) to analyze and confront at least one of your Stuck Points each day. Also, if not completed in session, complete the trust star example (Handout 9.3). Please read over the Power/Control Issues Module (Handout 9.4) and think about how your prior beliefs about power/control were affected by your trauma. If you have power/control Stuck Points related to yourself or others, complete at least one work- sheet to examine those beliefs. Use the remaining sheets for other Stuck Points on your Stuck Point Log (Handout 6.1) or for distressing events that have occurred recently.

### **Session 9 Handouts:**

- 8.1: Challenging Beliefs Worksheet (6 copies included)
- 9.3: Trust Star Worksheet
- 9.3(A): Example of a completed Trust Star Worksheet
- 9.4: Power/Control Issues Module
- 9.6: Ways of Giving and Taking Power Handout

Date:	Client:

A. Situation	B. Thought/Stuck Point	D. Challenging Thoughts	E. Problematic Patterns	F. Alternative Thought(s)
Describe the event, thought, or belief leading to the unpleasant emotion(s).	Write thought/Stuck Point related to situation in section A. Rate your belief in this thought/ Stuck Point from 0 to 100%. (How much do you believe this thought?)	Use <b>Challenging Questions</b> to examine your automatic thought from section B. Consider whether the thought is balanced and factual, or extreme.	Use the Patterns of Problematic Thinking Worksheet to decide whether this is one of your problematic patterns of thinking.	What else can I say instead of the thought in section B? How else can I interpret the event instead of this thought? Rate your belief in the alternative thought(s) from 0 to 100%.
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		Evidence against?	Exaggerating or minimizing:	
		Habit or fact?	Laggerating of Hillimizing.	
		Not including all information?	Ignoring important parts:	
		All-or-none?		
		Extreme or exaggerated?	Oversimplifying:	G. Re-Rate Old Thought/ Stuck Point
		Focused on just one piece?	Overgeneralizing:	Re-rate how much you now believe the thought/Stuck Point in section B, from 0 to 100%.
	C. Emotion(s)	Source dependable?		
	Specify your emotion(s) (sad, angry, etc.), and rate how strongly you feel each emotion	Confusing possible with likely?	Mind reading:	H. Emotion(s)  Now what do you feel? Rate it
	from 0 to 100%.	Based on feelings or facts?	Emotional reasoning:	from 0 to 100%.
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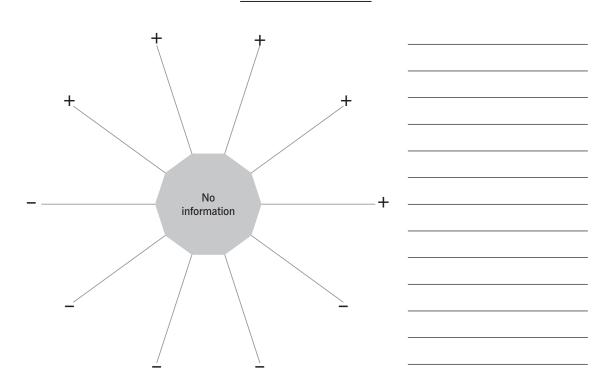
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## HANDOUT 9.3 Trust Star Worksheet

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#### **TYPES OF TRUST**



## HANDOUT 9.3A Sample Trust Star Worksheet

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## HANDOUT 9.4 Power/Control Issues Module

**Power and Control Beliefs Related to SELF:** Beliefs that you can solve problems and meet challenges that you may face.

### PRIOR EXPERIENCE

Negative	Positive	
If you grew up experiencing repeated negative events, you may have developed the belief that you cannot control events or solve problems even if they are controllable/solvable. A new traumatic event may seem to confirm prior beliefs about helplessness.	If you grew up believing that you had control over events and could solve problems, the traumatic event may have disrupted those beliefs.	
Symptoms Associated with Negative Power/Control Beliefs about the Self		

- Numbing of feelings
- Avoidance of emotions
- · Chronic passivity
- · Hopelessness and depression
- Self-destructive patterns
- Outrage when you are faced with events that are out of your control, or with people who do not behave as you would like

#### **Examples of Possible Stuck Points**

- "Because I can't be completely in control, I might as well be out of control."
- "The traumatic event wouldn't have happened if I had had better control over it."
- "I need to be perfect to be in control."
- "If I lose complete control over my emotions, something bad will happen."

#### **POSSIBLE RESOLUTIONS**

If you previously believed that	A possible alternative thought may be
"I have control over everything that I do and say, as well as over the actions of others," then it will be important to realize that none of us can have complete control over our emotions or behavior at all times. Although you may be able to influence many external events, it is impossible to control all events or all behaviors of other people. Neither of these	"I do not have total control over my reactions, other people, or events at all times. However, I am able to have some control over my reactions to events, and to influence some behaviors of others or the outcomes of some events."  "Bad things do not always happen when I am not in control."

(continued)

#### **HANDOUT 9.4** (p. 2 of 3)

If you previously believed that	A possible alternative thought may be
facts is a sign of weakness, but only an understanding that you are human and can admit that you are not in control of everything that happens to you or your reactions.	
"I am helpless or powerless to control myself or others," then you will need to work on developing a sense of control to decrease the symptoms of depression and low self-esteem that often go along with believing you are helpless. It may help to look at your actual ability to control some events in your life.	"I cannot control all events outside myself, but I do have some control over what happens to me and my reactions to events."  "I can try to notice all the little things I have control over in my life, and I can practice taking control over more things in my life that are important to me."

**Power and Control Beliefs Related to OTHERS:** Beliefs that you can control others or future events related to others (including people in power).

### PRIOR EXPERIENCE

Negative	Positive	
If you had prior experiences with others that led you to believe that you had no control in your relationships with others, or that you had no power in relation to powerful others, the traumatic event will seem to confirm those beliefs.	If you had prior positive experiences in your relationships with others and in relation to powerful others, you may have come to believe that you could influence others. The traumatic event may shatter this belief because you were unable to exert enough control, despite your best efforts, to prevent the event.	
Symptoms Associated with Negative Power/Control Beliefs about Others		
Passivity		
Submissiveness		
<ul> <li>Lack of assertiveness that can generalize to all relationships</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Inability to maintain relationships, because you do not allow the other persons to exert any control in the relationships (including becoming enraged if the other persons try to exert even a minimal amount of control)</li> </ul>		
Examples of Possible Stuck Points		
"People will always try to control you."		
"There is no point in even trying to fight against authority."		
"This event just proves that people have too much power over me."		

### POSSIBLE RESOLUTIONS

If you previously believed that	Possible alternative thoughts may be
"I am powerless and have no control in relationships," then you will need to learn ways that it is safe and appropriate for you to exert control over yourself, others, and events.	"Even though I cannot always get everything I want in a relationship, I do have the ability to influence others by standing up assertively for my rights and asking for what I want."
"I have to control everything in the lives of people I care about, or they will be hurt," then the traumatic event may have further reinforced this belief. It will be important for you to realize that healthy relationships involve sharing power and control, and that relationships in which one person has all the power can be abusive (even if you are the one with all the power). It may also be helpful to realize that it can be relaxing to give up some of the power, and freeing to let others make decisions some of the time.	"Even though I may not get everything I want or need out of a relationship, I can assert myself and ask for it. A good relationship is one in which power is balanced between both people. If I am not allowed any control, I can exert my control in this relationship by ending it, if necessary."  "I can learn to let others have some of the power in a relationship, and even enjoy having others take responsibility for some of the things that need to be done."

## HANDOUT 9.6 Ways of Giving and Taking Power Handout

Giving Power	Taking Power	
Positive		
<ul> <li>Being altruistic (helping others without expecting anything in return)</li> <li>Helping others in need or crisis</li> <li>Sharing yourself with another person as part of the give-and-take in relationships</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Being assertive</li> <li>Setting limits and boundaries with others</li> <li>Being honest with yourself and others</li> <li>Example: You tell a friend you cannot help him or her now, but you schedule a time to</li> </ul>	
<b>Example</b> : You are on your way to the store when a friend asks for a ride to the doctor, and you decide to help your friend.	meet later when it fits into your schedule.	
Negative		
Basing your actions or behaviors solely on the reactions you expect from others	Giving ultimatums     Testing limits	
Always placing the needs of others above your own	Intentionally upsetting others for personal gain	
Allowing others easy access to your "hot buttons," to get you emotionally upset	Behaving aggressively	
<b>Example</b> : You have a strong negative reaction to someone who is clearly manipulating you to feel that way.	<b>Example:</b> You tell your partner, "I will not have sex with you until you do what I want."	