Phase 1 History Taking (For Practicum & Initial Learning)

Ask partner for some general information about themselves to allow for rapport building in the practicum experience (5 minutes):

What are some of your strengths, assets, and resources?
*An alternate way to ask is “What are the things you have going for you, both internal and external?”

What do you want to work on during this practicum?
*Specific memories or general themes are both workable for practicum

What would you like to get out of doing this work? (e.g, goals and outcomes)
Target Selection

It is not important that we go through a detailed, chronological history. For many people, recounting a detailed history may be impossible until you've processed certain memories or you may not feel ready for it right now. Are there any themes you can identify related to your presenting issue(s) that seem to be keeping you stuck right now?

I. Presenting Issue:

A. Theme:

   1. Negative Cognition:
      a. First floatback memory:
      b. Worst floatback memory:
      c. Most recent floatback memory:

   2. Negative Cognition:
      a. First floatback memory:
      d. Worst floatback memory:
      e. Most recent floatback memory:

   3. Negative Cognition:
      a. First floatback memory:
      b. Worst floatback memory:
      c. Most recent floatback memory:

➢ In practicum we only expect you to work on one presenting issue. In clinical practice you may use as many of these worksheets as needed to work on other presenting issues.
➢ Use the negative cognitions list on the opposite page to help you
Responsibility
I should have known better.
I should have done something.
I did something wrong.
I am to blame.
I cannot be trusted.

Safety
I cannot trust myself.
I cannot trust anyone.
I am in danger.
I am not safe.
I cannot show my emotions.

Choice
I am not in control.
I have to be perfect/please everyone.
I am weak.
I am trapped.
I have no options.

Power
I cannot get what I want.
I cannot handle it/stand it.
I cannot succeed.
I cannot stand up for myself.
I cannot let it out.
I am powerless/helpless.

Value
I am a bad person./I am terrible.
I am permanently damaged.
I am defective.
I am insignificant.
I am not important.
I deserve to die.
I deserve only bad things.
I am stupid.
I do not belong.
I am different.
I am a failure.
I am ugly.
My body is ugly.
I am alone.

How to Use:

- Have your client check off any negative beliefs that they may still hold in the present, especially those that go along with the presenting issue they have chosen.
- If more than 3 are checked, have them go over the list again and see if they can rank (1, 2, 3) the “hottest” or “most charged” beliefs.
- Once identified, ask them three floatback questions and document on facing page (use this wording):

a. Looking back over the course of your life, when is the first time you believed… (e.g., I am…; I cannot…; I do not…)

b. Looking back over the course of your life, when is the worst time you believed…

c. Looking back over the course of your life, when is the most recent time you believed…