

EXERCISE 40.A

JOURNAL OF DISTORTED, NEGATIVE THOUGHTS

When you are caught in the web of depression and hopelessness, you need to identify those situations and thoughts that are pushing you to the edge of life. This exercise helps you discover those distorted, discouraging thoughts and the situations that seem to trigger them. It is also important that you attempt to gain some perspective on your life by identifying the positive aspects of your situation and those people who support and care for you.

1. Keep a daily record of the trigger situations and your self-defeating, negative thoughts that lead to consideration of suicide.

Incident	Trigger	
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One	Situation	
Day/Date:		
-,		
	D	
	Discouraging	
	Thought	
	Thought	



Incident Two Day/Date:	Trigger Situation Discouraging Thought	
Incident —— Day/Date:	Trigger Situation	
	Discouraging Thought	
Incident ——— Day/Date:	Trigger Situation	



Discouraging Thought	



ncident Day/Date:	Trigger Situation	
ray/Date:	Discouraging Thought	
What are	e the most comm	only occurring discouraging thoughts?
		of discouraging thoughts, replace these with more positive or
What sit	uations are causi	ng you the most conflict and hopelessness?
What are	e the positive asp	ects of your present life that provide a sense of hope?



6.	Who are the people you can turn to for help and support?