

HANDOUT 7.5
Patterns of Problematic Thinking Worksheet

Date: _____ Client: _____

Listed below are several different patterns of problematic thinking that people use in different life situations. These patterns often become automatic, habitual thoughts that cause people to engage in self-defeating behavior. Considering your own Stuck Points, or samples from your everyday thinking, find examples for each of these patterns. Write in the Stuck Point or typical thought under the appropriate pattern, and describe how it fits that pattern. Think about how that pattern affects you.

1. **Jumping to conclusions** or predicting the future.

2. **Exaggerating or minimizing** a situation (blowing things way out of proportion or shrinking their importance inappropriately).

3. **Ignoring important parts** of a situation.

4. **Oversimplifying** things as “good–bad” or “right–wrong.”

5. **Overgeneralizing** from a single incident (e.g., a negative event is seen as a never-ending pattern).

6. **Mind reading** (assuming that people are thinking negatively of you when there is no definite evidence for this).

7. **Emotional reasoning** (using your emotions as proof—e.g., “I feel fear, so I must be in danger”).