

In This Workshop

- The nature of resilience in a practical and applied sense
- Personal resilience: How can I become more resilient as an individual and as a leader?
- Programmatic resilience: How can my area or unit become more resilient?



Exercise #1

- But what really is *resilience*?
- Why is it something you'd like to develop?
- Take one minute to jot down in your workbook a few ideas about what the word *resilience* means to you.

01:00



What Do We Learn?

- Resilience means "bouncing back" from failure, difficulty, or disappointment
- This is the etymological meaning
- Latin: re- = back/again + salire = to jump, leap, or bounce
- But there are other images that also sometimes come to mind











04:00

So ...

- Let's see how prepared you are to deal with setbacks
- Exercise #2
- Read each statement and rank yourself 1 to 5 on how well that statement describes you
- Then total the points you assigned yourself

Exercise #2

- Your initial impulses are probably your best answers
- Don't try to overthink the statements
- We'll take four minutes for this exercise

• Ready?



 Next, we'll explore what those scores mean



80 - 89

- You definitely have some strengths in the area of resilience but (like most of us) you've got some room to improve.
- The concepts and strategies that we'll discuss could be very beneficial to you.

79 or Below

- Resilience is a challenge for you.
- But take heart in this: It's hard to develop on your own.
- And you've come to the right place.
- The techniques and strategies that we'll explore in this workshop could help you a lot.

If you didn't score as well as you'd like, how can you improve your score? How can you lean to "bounce back" more completely after a setback? There are five pillars of resilience (both personal and programmatic).









Core Values

- Don't change (or evolve slowly) over time
- They ground us in who we are
- And they, far more than goals (metrics, itineraries), help us become resilient



Andrew Zolli, <u>Resilience</u>

The capacity of a system, enterprise, or a person to maintain its core purpose and integrity in the face of dramatically changed circumstances



page 7

The Difference Andrew Zolli, <u>Resilience</u> • As we've seen, goals may The capacity of a system, change; they may have to Resilience enterprise, or a person to change maintain its core purpose and integrity in the face of • Core values provide dramatically changed stability, a sense of ANDREW ZOLLI circumstances groundedness page 7



The 8 Domains of Self-Esteem

Resilience

- Jane Clarke and John Nicholson build on the research of Jennifer Crocker, a professor of psychology at the University of Michigan
- They identify 8 major domains of self-esteem
- People who are very strong in at least one domain tend to be more resilient to setbacks

The 8 Domains of Self-Esteem 1. Virtue, Integrity, or Morality

- 2. God's love
- 3. Support of family
- 4. Academic competence
- 5. Physical attractiveness
- 6. Gaining other's approval
- 7. Outdoing others in competition

8. Success in one's profession

Resultence Busilience



Exercise #3 Exercise #3 • In your workbook are 8 statements Checking a box may seem 0 or groups of statements related to "cocky" or "egotistical." these domains. That's okay. 9 • Check the box beside any statement that you can truthfully say about Resilience Just be sure that the ENTIRE vourself. statement is true for you NOTE: Only check the box if the We'll pause one minute for this 9 statement or group of statements is **COMPLETELY** true for you. exercise.

If You Checked One or More Statements

- Start using that domain as a 0 source of greater resilience.
- In other words, when things are rough, say to yourself, "I know I can get through this because ... "
 - ✓ God loves me.
 - ✓ I'm smarter than everyone else.
 - ✓ I'm tougher than everyone else.
 - ✓ Or something similar.



Self-Esteem and Resilience

"Resilience is based on two things belief in what you're doing, and confidence that you can make things better, even if only by 5%."

Resilience

No. A State Contract of the State

01:00

Self-Esteem as a System

- O That source of self-esteem gets you through difficulties because it's your compass.
- Or to put it another way, it's the system that works even when your goals aren't being met in the way you'd like.



Systems vs Goals

- Scott Adams, the creator of 9 Dilbert
- How to Fail at Almost 9 **Everything and Still Win Big:** Kind of the Story of My Life. New York, NY: Portfolio/ Penguin, 2014
- "If you're taking life advice from a cartoonist, you've got bigger problems."



GOALS	SYSTEMS	
losing 50 pounds	eating right	
marathon < 4 hours	exercising daily	
doubling enrollment	developing an effective marketing/admissions	
becoming a university president	master each leadership position and then moving to a more challenging role	





Exercise #4

For this exercise, focus on only *one* of the following: a personal goal or a professional goal for your work unit.

- What is the specific goal or target that you set yourself? In other words, exactly what do you hope to achieve (stated in terms that will make it unmistakable whether or not you've achieved it)? And when do you plan to achieve that goal?
- 2. Next, what is the core value that makes that goal worthwhile? In other words, why is that goal important and worth pursuing?
- 3. Finally, what is the system, strategy, or technique you'll use to achieve that goal?



How to Make Use of This Exercise

Use that specific goal or target for inspiration and motivation.

But never lose track of your core values. And, on daily basis, focus more on your system, strategy, or technique than on the specific goal or target you've set yourself.







Core Values Give Us Meaning

- Meaning gives us the ability to recover from setbacks ... even severe setbacks
- Viktor Frankl: Those who were able to emerge from concentration camps and recover (to a reasonable extent) had a meaning or a mission they clung to



Authentic Academic Leadership

Leading from Your Core Values

to L. Bul FAU

CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MAN'S

SEARCH

FOR MEANING

VIKTOR E.

FRANKL







Does It Ever Happen That Nothing Works?

- A, B, and C all fail?
- Of course: You can't guarantee success.
- Traveling with a spare doesn't guarantee arriving at a destination.
- It merely *reduces the likelihood* of being stranded.



Traveling with a Spare

- Means slightly different things for 0 personal resilience and for programmatic resilience
- We become more personally 9 resilient when we develop back-up plans in case we don't meet our goals
- Let's see how this process works in 9 action

Exercise #5

- Identify a goal that you have personally, as opposed to a goal for your entire office, department, or program.
- For example, your goal might be something like being promoted to the rank of full professor by the time you're 35, being named manager within three years, having a book published by Oxford University Press before you turn 40, having two girls and a boy, retiring by the time you're 55, or buying a beach house before you retire.
- This goal is **Plan A**.
- Record Plan A in your workbook.

Reverse and the second second second



Exercise #5

- Now suppose that, for whatever reason, Plan A proves to be impossible.
- Set another goal that would please or satisfy you (nearly) as much as Plan A.
- Call that plan **Plan B** and record it in your workbook.



Exercise #5

- Finally, assume that, again for whatever reason, *neither* Plan A nor Plan B prove possible.
- Then what will you do?
- Don't simply say something like "Give up" or "Keep trying." Instead try to think of something that might please or satisfy you (nearly) as much as Plan A or Plan B.
- Call this new back-up plan **Plan C** and record it in your workbook.



Exercise #5 We'll take four minutes for this exercise Ready?

CONTRACTOR OF THE OWNER OF THE

Traveling with a Spare

- As I mentioned earlier, this whole approach means slightly different things for personal resilience and for programmatic resilience
- Now that we've seen how backup plans work for developing personal resilience, let's turn to programmatic resilience

Traveling with a Spare

For programmatic resilience, traveling with a 0 spare involves cross-training: Making certain that more than one person can perform each critical task

Exercise #6

- Identify three mission-critical functions of your area.
- These functions should be so vital that, if they were not performed, the work of your area would be (all but) impossible.



Exercise #6

- Then, for each of the 0 functions you listed, identify three people in your area who are fully trained, qualified, and prepared to perform them.
- If you can't identify anyone, 9 is this a problem?







What Are Fire Doors?

A physical fire door is thus similar to a bulkhead door in a submarine: if one compartment floods, the bulkhead door prevents the water from filling other compartments.

What Are Fire Doors?

In resilience: practices that minimize damage to *the entire* enterprise when insoluble or truly severe problems happen in one part of an enterprise.

Examples of Fire Doors

- Stop-Loss Clauses: standing orders to sell a security or commodity if its value is reduced to a specified price in order to limit a loss
- Tripwire Policies: policies saying that, if a particular event occurs (usually very bad in nature), certain actions will *automatically* be taken



Examples of Fire Doors

Tough Love or Cutting Off: restricting or eliminating contact with a friend or family member in an effort to shock that person into taking responsibility for his/her own actions; refusal to enable a destructive person any longer; protecting oneself when another person proves to be toxic

Examples of Policy Fire Doors

- Budget: If the budget in an area falls below a certain percentage, a spending freeze goes into effect
- Enrollment: If enrollment in a specific program or track remains below a certain level for three years in a row, that program will be phased out



Do You Need a Policy Fire Door?

 Do you have a budgetary category that a] could be overspent and b] if overspent would put your program or office in jeopardy?



Do You Need a Policy Fire Door?

 Do you have an offering or service that a] is increasingly underutilized or undersubscribed and b] would put your program or office in jeopardy if this trend reaches a certain point?



 If so, establish a "stop loss" that, if reached (or reached repeatedly), will cause that offering or service to be eliminated or suspended?







Types of Isolation

- termination
- relocation
- reassignment 9
- disengagement 9
- removal from committees 9



Annoying or Toxic?

- There's a big difference between 9 someone who's annoying and someone who's toxic.
- Annoying people do things that we find irritating but ultimately they don't affect our lives or work performance seriously.
- 9 We'll never completely escape having annoying people in our lives.

Annoying or Toxic?

 In your workbook is an abridged article from *Psychology Today* on the traits of truly toxic people.



- Exercise #7.
- Identify a person either in your personal life or professional life whom you suspect may be toxic.

Annoying or Toxic?

 Then read the 15 statements under Exercise #7 in your workbook and check as many as are true of this person.

02:00

• We'll pause two minutes for this exercise.

Checked 9 or More Statements?

- If so, there is a strong possibility that you have genuinely toxic person in your program or life.
- If that is the case, check to make sure that you've taken all the steps in the three-step process.
- If you haven't, try any missing step before establishing a Fire Door.

But Suppose ...

You tried solving the problem (clear, candid conversations)

- You tried managing the problem (restricting problematic behavior)
- Then for your own good or the good of your office/program, a Fire Door that isolates the problematic person may be in order

The second s

Examples of Fire Doors

personal

• Eliminating or reducing contact; breaking ties

- Setting and enforcing boundaries
- Refusing to be drawn into their crises: don't empathize
- Spending more time and energy on healthy relationships

programmatic

- Being strictly professional
- Initiating termination processes
- Relocating their office to a remote site
- Removing them from committees
- Restricting their duties

Doesn't This Reward Poor Behavior?

Perhaps, but by the time you reach the need for one of these fire doors, protecting yourself or other people has to take precedence.

Remember

- Tenure and academic freedom do not permit toxic behavior.
- Our willingness to endure toxic behavior does.







Balance Your Portfolio Encourage Biodiversity Good advice for investing. • If you disturb one RISK - REWARD • Good advice for planning part of a system, it and preparation can disturb others. generally. O Unintended • We've already seen how useful it can be to have a consequences can back-up plan. result.



What This Means in Practice?

2. Test different hypotheses.

- Offer courses in different formats/modalities.
- Test run a new policy/procedure with expiration date.
- Use limited-term contracts.
- Try several possibilities at once.

Example

- Boost enrollment in program?
- Hire several of the following on one-year contracts and see which make(s) the greatest difference:

- recruiter
- marketing specialist
- web designer
- "student concierge"



What This Means in Practice?

3. Conduct a "Pre-Mortem."

- Imagine that it's a year from now and we just realized that adopting this proposal was a huge mistake.
- What do you suppose went wrong?







✓ A sense of "You can do this because I've done



• At the end of the inventory,

A STREET AND A S

02:00

- total all the numbers you have circled.
- We'll pause two minutes for this exercise.
- Ready?

If Your Score is 38-50

- You appear to have a very strong social network.
- But remember that not everyone may have that advantage.
- Go the extra mile to help others out when they need it.

• This will help you create "social capital."



If Your Score is 24-37

- You're in a rather small minority.
- So, you need to figure out why.
- What is it about close personal interactions with people that most attracts you?
- What is it about these interactions that you find less appealing?

If Your Score is 10-23 Pillar #5 • You appear to be something of a loner or an introvert. Make It a Teaching But some things that loners or introverts do, like working things out for themselves, Moment can be very effective in providing resilience. Use other resources — such as information • learned this. resources, financial resources, and selfinen I learned this. confidence resources — will be all the more And then i learned this, too. important to you in difficult times.



Fixed	Growth	
Плец	Growth	
Intelligence, skill, and talent are commodities	Intelligence, skill, and talent are like muscles	
You have a certain amount of them, and that's it	You can cause them to grow	

Fi	Fixed versus Growth Mindset						
		Fixed Mindset Response	Growth Mindset Response				
	Challenges	Avoid	Embrace				
	Obstacles	Give up easily	Persist				
	Tasks requiring effort	Fruitless to Try	Path to mastery				
	Criticism	Ignore it	Learn from it				
	Success of Others	Threatening	Inspirational				

Learned Helplessness

- Based on prior experience, the feeling that no amount of effort will bring success
- Destroys motivation to attempt a task





Cognitive Restructuring

- Cognitive restructuring is a technique designed to help people examine unhelpful thinking patterns, and devise new ways to react to problematic situations.
- It involves paying attention to thoughts, recognizing when they are irrational thoughts, challenging them, and learning replacement thoughts and behaviors.



Cognitive Restructuring

- Through this technique, you relearn healthy ways of talking to yourself so that you can let go of the self-defeating talk.
- Cognitive restructuring often involves keeping a thought record, which is a way of tracking dysfunctional automatic thoughts, and devising adaptive alternative responses.

The Thought Record

 In your workbook, you've got an example of one of the most common types of thought records in use today.

 It was introduced by Dennis Greenberger and Christine A.
 Padesky in *Mind Over Mood* (Guilford Press, 1995).



The Thought Record

 When you have thoughts that are troubling, self-defeating, or painful, you record them in the thought record.

 In Column 1 you recall the inciting incident and the context: What prompted this thought?





- In Column 2, you describe and rate the mood caused by that thought (1 = insignificant, 10 = intense)
- In Column 3, you indicate whether any automatic thoughts were prompted (those negative scripts we replay for ourselves)
- Intense negative automatic thoughts are termed hot thoughts



The Thought Record

- In Column 4, you record any evidence in support of your hot thoughts: If you often feel like a failure, is there a time you felt this way because you really did fail?
- In Column 5, you record any evidence that <u>disputes</u> the hot thought

The Thought Record

- In Column 6, you identify and rate any alternative or balanced thoughts you have (1 = disbelieve totally, 10 = believe totally)
- In Column 7, you re-rate your mood from Column 2 based on this exercise



The Thought Record

- The goal of the Thought Record is to make this type of re-analysis more automatic
- It helps you *learn* from bad situations, not *wallow* in them
- Cognitive Restructuring Questions can also help in this process



by Changing the

ner Phill Christins & Padastry P

Way You Think



You will never speak to anyone more than you speak to yourself in your head.

Be kind to yourself.



Learning Organizations

The concept of the Learning Organization is basically this: How can I bring a Growth Mindset to my entire office, program, department, or institution?

Peter Senge

- The concept of the Learning
 Organization was made popular by
 Peter Senge in his book The Fifth
 Discipline
- Senge is a senior lecturer at the MIT Sloan School of Management, cofaculty at the New England Complex Systems Institute, and the founder of the Society for Organizational Learning



Learning Organizations

- Seek to grow and develop continually
- study themselves
- are vision-based
- operate collaboratively
- maintain a healthy skepticism
- embrace the power of knowledge



Learning Organizations

- so, you can see why we can think of Learning Organizations as having a Growth Mindset
- But how do you help your unit become a Learning Organization?
- A lot has to do with changing the culture to become more receptive of positive development



Learning Organizations

Changing a Culture

Make sure that roles and rewards reflect the culture change

- Communicate the vision behind the culture change repeatedly
- Recognize and celebrate your early adopters
- Prepare for a long-term process



But is there anything we can do in the short term?

One Idea: Conduct a Post-Mortem

- What went wrong?
- What was the cause of what went wrong?
- Was it a freak, one-time problem or likely to recur?
- If likely to recur, what can be done to minimize its likelihood or impact?




The Primary Components of Resilience 1 Being comfortable with who you are 2 Being values-drive; feeling that you have to make a difference

- 3 Having other interests a hinterland which provides a source of relief, even escape, and perspective
- 4 Having drive and determination (even ruthlessness) matched with realism – you can't win them all, so the knack is to pick the right things to lose on and then give in gracefully



Florida Atlantic University Jupiter Campus SR 230 5353 Parkside Drive Jupiter, FL 33458

jbuller@fau.edu 561-799-8024 Center for Leadership & Professional Development

fau.edu/leadership





How to Bounce Back When Things Are Tough

Developing Resilience

As an Academic Leader

Exercise #1

What Is Resilience?

Something about the title of this workshop led you to sign up for it. But what did you think you would learn? What does *resilience* mean, and why is that something you'd like to develop?

Take a minute to express what resilience means to you:

More inside!



But what does it mean to "bounce back"? And why is that a good thing?

The 5 Pillars

- 1. Respect Your Itinerary But Trust Your Compass
- 2. Always Travel with a Spare
- 3. Install Fire Doors
- 4. Hedge Your Bets
- 5. Make It a Teaching Moment

TOTAL POINTS _

Inventory: How Resilient Are You?

DIRECTIONS: Read each of the following statements and then indicate on a scale of 1 to 5 the degree to which that statement sounds like you. When you have finished, add up the number of points you have assigned yourself.

		1=	2 =	3 =	4 =	5 =
		Not Like Me at All	Not Very Much Like Me	Sort of Like Me	Very Much Like Me	Exactly Like Me
1.	I learn valuable lessons from my experiences and from the experiences of others.					
2.	I can tolerate high levels of ambiguity and uncertainty about most situations.					
3.	In a crisis or chaotic situation, I calmly focus on useful strategies to solve the difficulty facing me.					
4.	I'm non-judgmental about others and adapt well to people's different personality styles.					
5.	I have a track record of converting misfortune into good luck and identifying benefits or lessons in bad experiences.					
6.	I've been made stronger by difficult experiences.					
7.	When I set a goal for myself, I do the work need to attain it, even if I have to overcome major obstacles.					
8.	I live a very meaningful life.					
9.	When coping with a difficulty, my reaction is more often, "I know I can get through this, and I'll be stronger because of it" than "Why do things like this always happen to <i>me</i> ?"					
10.	When I'm feeling overwhelmed, I try to figure out what's bothering me so that I can better deal with my emotions.					
11.	I know that I can't always choose how life goes, but I can choose my response to whatever happens.					
12.	It doesn't really bother me when I hear someone say something bad about me.					
13.	I have a support system or mentor I can rely on during tough times.					
14.	I have effective strategies in place for managing stress.					
15.	I don't hesitate to ask others for help.					
16.	I'm optimistic about the future.					
17.	I generally become fixated on the past other than when I'm reflecting on and learning from an experience.					
18.	I'm able to laugh even in fairly difficult situations.					
19.	Those who know me well would describe my lifestyle as healthy.					
20.	When receiving criticism, I can remain confident and learn from it instead of feeling attacked or depressed.					



Scoring the Inventory

When you've completed the inventory, add up all the points you assigned yourself. Record this number in the blank at the upper right of page 2. Then compare your results to the following chart.



2.

3.

90 to 100: You're a resilience god(dess)! You've already perfected the skills we're going to be discussing in this workshop. But perhaps you're here to learn how best to pass on your skills to others?

80 to 89: You definitely have some strengths in the area of resilience but (like most of us) you've got some room to improve. The concepts and strategies that we'll discuss could be very beneficial to you.

79 or below: Resilience is a challenge for you. But take heart in this: It's hard to develop on your own. But you've come to the right place. The techniques and strategies that we'll explore in this workshop could help you a lot.

Exercise #3

Check the box of any of the following statements or group of statements that you believe to be true about yourself. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** In order to check the box, the *entire* statement or group of statements must be true for you.

- I am a person of exceptional virtue, integrity, and high moral principle. In fact, I'd say that I usually act much more ethically than most people do.
- □ I have value and significance as a human being because God loves me.
- □ I have a particularly close relationship with my family, and I can count on them to support me even when I make mistakes or things go wrong.
- □ I'm smarter and better educated than most people.
- □ I'm more attractive than most people.
- □ Other people like me and tend to gravitate toward me. I guess you'd say that I have charisma.
- □ I'm a highly competitive person. I like to win and, in fact, I usually do.
- I'm a very successful person professionally.
 I achieve my goals including my personal financial goals most of the time.





For this exercise, focus on only *one* of the following: a **personal goal** or a **professional goal for your work unit**.

- What is the **specific goal or target** that you set yourself? In other words, exactly what do you hope to achieve (stated in terms that will make it unmistakable whether or not you've achieved it)? And when do you plan to achieve that goal?
- Next, what is the **core value** that makes that goal worthwhile? In other words, why is that goal important and worth pursuing?
- Finally, what is the **system**, **strategy**, **or technique** you'll use to achieve that goal?



How to Become More Resilient

from https://www.inc.com/lolly-daskal/how-to-be-moreresilient-when-things-get-tough.html

1. Don't try to solve problems with the same thinking that created them. Resilient people do not make the same mistake again and again. They're willing to be honest about why they failed and they take the time to think about what didn't work.

2. Master your emotions before they manage you. Resilient people have a positive outlook. They remind themselves that much of what they're facing is temporary, and that they've overcome setbacks before and can do it again. Resilient people focus on what they can learn from the experience.

3. Stay tough. Resilient people face their fears and have an adaptive attitude that lets them focus on possibilities even in the worst of times. The tougher the situation, the tougher they become.

4. Keep growing. Life does not get easier or more forgiving; we get stronger and more resilient. Resilient people are constantly becoming braver and more courageous. They know that life is not what happens to us but what happens within us.

5. Stay prepared. Resilient people work on solving a problem rather than let themselves become paralyzed by negativity. They keep planning for the future even when things aren't working out.

6. Pick yourself up, as many times as it takes. Resilient people understand that failure is not falling down but refusing to get up. They have the capacity to adapt successfully and the tenacity to never, ever quit.



7. Reward the small wins. Resilient people believe in themselves. They work hard and take joy in the small wins that give them strength.

8. Keep giving. Even in the toughest of times resilient people find a way to care for others, because sometimes being selfless is the best way to discover your own strength.

9. Build relationships. Resilient people maintain strong and supportive relationships, both personal and professional. As a result, they have caring, supportive people around them in times of crisis.

10. Create your own meaning. Resilient people search for meaning. They develop a "personal why" that helps them have a clear sense of purpose, which helps them view setbacks from a broader perspective..

Identify a goal that you have personally, as opposed to a goal for your entire office, department, or program. For example, your goal might be something like being promoted to the rank of full professor by the time you're 35, being named manager within three years, having a book published by Oxford University Press before you turn 40, having two girls and a boy, retiring by the time you're 55, or buying a beach house before you retire. This goal is **Plan A**. Write Plan A below.

Plan A

Now suppose that, for whatever reason, Plan A proves to be impossible. Set another goal that would please or satisfy you (nearly) as much as Plan A. Call that plan **Plan B** and write it in the space below.

Plan B



Exercise 5 (continued)

Finally, assume that, again for whatever reason, *neither* Plan A nor Plan B prove possible. *Then* what will you do? Don't simply say something like "Give up" or "Keep trying." Instead try to think of something that might please or satisfy you (nearly) as much as Plan A or Plan B.

Call this new back-up plan **Plan C** and record it in the space below.

Plan C

(continue to the column on the right)



Programmatic Resilience Requires Cross-Training

Exercise #6

Programmatic resilience is often found in units where substantial cross-training exists: More than one person is able to perform each mission-critical function.

On the next page, you'll be asked to identify three functions of your department, office, program or unit that are mission critical. In other words, if these functions were not performed your area would shut down entirely or at least be severely hampered in its function.

Then you're going to be asked to identify at least three people who is fully capable of performing each function.

Mission-Critical Functions

In the spaces below identify three mission-critical functions of your area. Remember: These functions should be so vital that, if they were not performed, the work of your area would be (all but) impossible.



Who Can Perform These Functions?

For each of the functions listed to the left, identify three people in your area who are fully trained, qualified, and prepared to perform them.

Function #1

Person A _____ Person B _____

Person C

Function #2

Person A _____

Person B _____

Person C _____

Function #3

Person A

Person B _____

Person C _____



There's a big difference between someone who's *annoying* and someone who's *toxic*. Annoying people do things that we find irritating but ultimately they don't affect our lives or work performance seriously. We'll never completely escape having annoying people in our lives.

Toxic people, on the other hand, are truly destructive.

Based on https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/influx/201608/8-things-the-most-toxic-people-in-your-lifehave-in-common. **Toxic people:**

- 1. **Are manipulative.** Their *modus operandi* is to get people to do what they want them to do. It's all about them. They use other people to accomplish whatever their goal happens to be.
- 2. Are judgmental. Keep your eyes and ears open for criticism—about you, what you've done, and what you didn't do. It's never about them, and they will lie if it serves them.
- 3. Take no responsibility for their own feelings. Rather, their feelings are projected onto you. If you try to point this out to them, they will likely vehemently defend their perspective.



- 4. **Don't apologize.** They don't see any reason to, because things are always someone else's fault.
- 5. Are inconsistent. It's hard to know who you're with at any given time because they are often not the same person. They may change their perspective, attitude, and behavior depending on what they feel they are

depending on what they feel they need to accomplish or what they want to have happen.

- 6. **Make you prove yourself to them.** Toxic people make you choose them over someone else, or something they want over something you want. Often, this turns into a "divide and conquer" dynamic in which the *only* choice is them.
- 7. **Make you defend yourself**. Remember, they are supreme manipulators: Their tactics may include being vague and arbitrary, as well as diverting the focus of the discussion to *how* you're discussing an issue—your tone, your words, etc. They focus on problems, not solutions.
- 8. Are not caring, supportive, or interested in what's important to you. In fact, the good things that happen to you move the attention away from them and thwart them from focusing on their own goals. Beware of people who find fault with you and make you wrong. Loyalty is foreign to them.

Is the person who is your greatest aggravation (either in your life or in your program) truly toxic or merely annoying?

Identify someone in your personal life or work life whose behavior creates difficulties for you. Call this person X. Then check as many of the sentences below that are *true* of X.

- \Box X is manipulative.
- □ X appears not to care genuinely about other people.
- □ X uses people.
- \Box X is judgmental.
- □ X takes no responsibility for his/her own feelings.
- □ X takes no responsibility for his/her own actions.
- □ X rarely if ever apologizes.
- □ X is inconsistent, changing his/her perspective, attitude, or behavior depending on what suits his/her interests at the time.
- □ X makes you choose X over other people or responsibilities.
- □ X overemphasizes the importance of "being loyal" to him/her.
- □ X regularly puts you on the defensive.
- □ X focuses on problems, not solutions.
- □ X doesn't support or show interest in what's important to others.
- □ X often seems irritated when others experience good fortune.
- □ While X expects loyalty from others, X rarely demonstrates loyalty *to* others.

Number of boxes you checked: ____

How Strong Is Your Network?

This is an exercise adapted from Jane Clarke and John Nicholson's *Resilience: Bounce Back from Whatever Life Throws at You.* (Richmond, UK: Crimson, 2010.) Read each statement and then circle the number in whichever column to the right of that statement best indicates how well that statement reflects you and your way of working. At the end of the inventory, total all the numbers you have circled.





Total _____ (To interpret your score, see the next page.)

Res

e Clarke & Dr John Nicho

Exercise #8 (Interpretation)

If your score is 38-50

You appear to have a very strong social network. At least, you seem to enjoy interacting with people, and being a "people person" is a great way to develop social resources. Because you seem to care about people in a genuine way, you're not likely to look at interactions with them as being "transactional": I do for you so that you'll do for me. But remember that not everyone may see the world that way. You can't make a "withdrawal" from your "social resource account" if you haven't made "deposits." So, rely on your natural interest in people to "invest" in positive relationships with them when things are going well. Go the extra mile to help others out when they need it. In that way, even those people who do see relationships as transactional will be more willing to provide you with a strong support network when you need it. To put it bluntly, they'll feel they owe you one, and that feeling will come in handy when you face a genuine crisis.

If your score is 24-37 Most inventories have results that fall into what is known as a standard distribution, the typical "bell-shaped curve." That is to say, lots of people tend to have results in the middle with relatively few people having results at either extreme. This



inventory is different, however. People's responses tend to be bimodal, either very high [= strong social network] or very low [= weak social network]. Since your score puts you into rather a small minority, it will be important for your resilience to figure out why. What is it about close personal interactions with people that most attracts you? What is it about these interactions that you find less appealing? Once you answer these questions, you'll have a clearer idea of which elements of your social network you'll feel most comfortable relying on in a crisis and which elements you're probably going to be more hesitant to turn to.

If your score is 10-23 You appear to be something of a loner or an introvert. As far as resilience is concerned, that's not exactly a bad thing. After all, some things that loners or introverts do, like working things out for themselves, can be very effective in providing resilience. What you may be lacking, however, is a strong *social* or *human* network. That means that your other resources — such as information resources, financial resources, and self-confidence resources — will be all the more important to you in difficult times. So, remember to rely on those and to develop them (learn more, save and invest more, boost your self-esteem more) when things are going well.

Locus of Control Inventory

For each of the following statements, check the Yes box or the No box depending on which of the two answers is *more correct for you*.

1.	□ Yes (0) □ No (1)	Is there some bad habit, such as smoking, that you would like to break but can't?	
2.	□ Yes (1) □ No (0)	Do you take steps, such as exercise and diet, to control your weight and fitness?	
3.	□ Yes (0) □ No (1)	Do you believe that your personality was firmly laid down in childhood, so there's little you can do to change it?	
4.	□ Yes (1) □ No (0)	Do you make your own decisions, regardless of what other people say?	
5.	□ Yes (0) □ No (1)	Do you find it a waste of time to plan ahead because something always causes you to change direction?	
6.	□ Yes (1) □ No (0)	If something goes wrong, do you usually conclude that it's your own fault rather than just bad luck?	
7.	□ Yes (0) □ No (1)	Are most of the things you do designed to please other people?	
8.	□ Yes (0) □ No (1)	Do you often feel you are the victim of outside forces you cannot control?	
9.	□ Yes (1) □ No (0)	Do you usually manage to resist being persuaded by other people's arguments?	
10.	□ Yes (1) □ No (0)	Are you skeptical about the extent to which your horoscope can tell you what you should do and what's going to happen to you?	

Add up your score based on the numbers beside the Yes or No answers you have selected. The higher your score, the more you feel that you are in control of your own fate. The lower your score, the more you feel that what happens to you is determined by forces you cannot control.

Your score _

7. Rate Moods Now	- Copy the feelings from Column 2. -Rerate the intensity of each feeling from 0-100 as well as any new moods.
6. Alternative/ Balanced Thoughts	 Write an alternative or balanced thought Rate how much you believe in each alternative or balanced thought (0-100) Use Hint Box to generate alternative or balanced thoughts
 Evidence that Does Not Support the Hot Thought 	-Write factual evidence that <u>does not support</u> the hot thought - Use the questions in the Hint Box (see next page) to help discover evidence
4. Evidence that Supports the Hot Thought	- Circle the "hot thought" in the previous column for which you are looking for evidence. -Write factual evidence to support this conclusion
 Automatic Thoughts (Images) 	 Answer some or all of the following questions: What was going through my mind just before I started feeling this way? What does this say about me? My life? My future? What am I afraid might happen? What is the worst thing that could happen if this is true? What does this mean about the other other person(s) feel(s)/think(s) about me? What in general? What is general? What is general? What is the worst this does this mean about the other person(s) in general?
2. Moods	- Describe each mood in one word. - Rate intensity of mood
1. Situation	- Whom were you with? - What were you doing? - When was it? - Where were

From Mind Over Mood by Dennis Greenberger and Christine A Padesky. @ 1995 The Guilford Press

HINT BOX

Questions to help find evidence that does not support your hot thought

- Have I had any experiences that show that this thought is not completely true all the time?
- If my best friend or someone I loved had this thought, what would I tell them?
- If my best friend of someone who loves me knew I was thinking this thought, what would they say to me? What evidence would they point out to me that would suggest that my thoughts were not 100% true?
- When I am not feeling this way, do I think about this type of situation differently? How?
- When I have felt this way in the past, what did I think about that helped me feel better?
- Have I been in this type of situation before? What happened? Is there anything different between this situation and the previous ones? What have I learned from prior experiences that could help me now?
- Are there any small (or big) things that contradict my thoughts that I might be discounting as not important?
- Five years from now, if I look back at this situation, will I look at it any differently? Will I focus on any different part of my experience?
- Are there any strengths or positives in me or the situation that I am ignoring?
- Am I jumping to conclusions in columns 3 and 4 that are not completely justified by evidence?
- Am I blaming myself for something over which I do not have complete control?

Questions to help arrive at alternative or balanced thinking

- Based on the evidence I have listed in columns 4 and 5 of the Thought Record, is there an alternative way of thinking about or understanding this situation?
- Write one sentence that summarized all the evidence that supports my hot thought (column 4) and all the evidence that does not support my hot thought (column 5). Does combining the two summary statements with the word "and" create a balanced thought that takes into account all the information I have gathered?
- If someone I cared about was in this situation, had these thoughts, and had this information available, what would be my advice to them? How would I suggest that they understand the situation?
- If my hot thought is true, what is the worst outcome? If my hot thought is true, what is the best outcome? If my hot thought is true, what is the most realistic outcome?
- Can someone I trust think of any other way of understanding this situation?

Cognitive Restructuring Questions

- 1. What is truly the worst possible outcome of this situation?
- 2. Could this really harm me, my family, or my program?
- 3. Am I looking at this situation correctly? What proof do I have of my fears?
- 4. Can I really handle this situation even though I doubt myself?
- 5. What can I do to change this situation?
- 6. Is there a more skillful way of thinking about the situation?



