Ending with a Useful Summary - Session activity

Facilitate a structured practice of ending with a useful summary with preparation, reflection, and an agreed closing.

Mental health professionals | 30 minutes

Fictional example: Devin wants a summary that does not turn possibilities into promises.

0-5 min | Agree on purpose and fit

Explain the educational scope. Ask what would be useful, check readiness and access needs, and establish choices to observe, adapt, or pass. Use an ordinary example; do not solicit trauma narratives.

5-10 min | Orient with an example

A closing summary can use the person's language and preserve uncertainty. Fictional example: Devin wants a summary that does not turn possibilities into promises. Ask what is observed and what remains uncertain.

10-20 min | Practice and compare

Summarize the preferred difference, one existing resource, and an optional next step; invite correction. Offer quiet individual work, a supported conversation, or an observing role. Compare two possible responses without evaluating people as right or wrong.

20-25 min | Reflect on meaning

What would you change in this account of today's conversation? Ask what fit, what did not fit, and how culture, power, disability access, or external conditions affect the options.

25-30 min | Integrate and close

Invite one optional next step or support request. Orient to the current setting, allow an unfinished question to remain unfinished, and agree how to revisit it. End early or adapt if activation increases.

Adaptations

For a group, use fiction and no compulsory round-robin disclosure. For remote use, allow off-camera reflection and private notes. For brief use, keep one example and one question while retaining opening and closing choices.

Reflection

What adaptation or follow-up is needed?

Scope and adaptation

Acknowledge distress and structural barriers before asking about change. Do not use exceptions or compliments to dismiss harm. A personal scale is a conversational aid, not a validated outcome measure, risk screen, or reason to withhold assessment.

Original AI-assisted educational draft; independent clinical review pending. Version 1.0. Background: What is Solution-Focused Therapy?. Full source links and scope: library.morethantherapy.org/approaches/resources/SFB-A19-4