Trigger Detective

Emotional Regulation | 45 minutes | 3-12 participants | Adults and teens 13+ with appropriate facilitation

Purpose

Participants distinguish activating events, interpretations, feelings, and actions.

Materials: Paper or a printable handout, Pens or an accessible writing alternative, Optional blank cards or simple drawing materials

Invite and agree - 3 minutes

Name the purpose and the right to pass, observe, write, or use fiction. Agree that people share only their own experiences and do not promise absolute group confidentiality.

Introduce the example - 3 minutes

Use a fictional, ordinary example chosen by the facilitator; personal disclosure is optional. Ask what is known and what is still a guess.

Practice: Planning workshop - 32 minutes

Present a neutral scenario; map event, thought, body cue, urge, and response; practice a more flexible interpretation. Sketch several possible responses, compare access and likely tradeoffs, and choose one adjustable plan with a backup.

Reflect together - 4 minutes

Which part of the chain can you influence? Ask what fit, what did not fit, and what would make the exercise more accessible. Do not interpret another person's response.

Choose a next step - 3 minutes

Invite one optional action, support request, or question to carry forward. Passing is a valid closing response. Confirm how to seek appropriate support outside the activity.

Facilitator fit and boundaries

Use drawings or chosen words rather than requiring body awareness. Do not imply feelings cause harmful actions.

Offer observation, private writing, or a fictional example. Adapt instructions and group size to access needs. No client responses are collected by this page.

Original AI-assisted educational draft; independent clinical review pending. Version 1.0. Conceptual reading: TIP 41: Substance Abuse Treatment: Group Therapy, TIP 57: Trauma-informed Care in Behavioral Health Services. Source links appear on the online activity page.