Stress and Avoidance Alternatives - Session activity

Facilitate a structured practice of stress and avoidance alternatives with preparation, reflection, and an agreed closing.

Mental health professionals | 30 minutes

Fictional example: Noah uses viewing to postpone a stressful email.

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

Alternative coping should address the actual function and available resources. Fictional example: Noah uses viewing to postpone a stressful email. Ask what is observed and what remains uncertain.

10-20 min | Practice and compare

Identify one stressor, what the current behavior temporarily changes, and two feasible alternatives to try. 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 alternative addresses the underlying task or need? 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

Adult-only, non-explicit educational resources. The searchable phrase pornography addiction is not used here as an established diagnosis. Frequency, high desire, or moral distress alone does not establish a disorder; assess impaired control, functioning, distress, consent, and context with a qualified clinician. Respect consensual sexuality and chosen goals; no explicit media, aversion exercises, forced disclosure, or coercive monitoring.

Original AI-assisted educational draft; independent clinical review pending. Version 1.0. Background: AASECT Position on Sex Addiction. Full source links and scope: library.morethantherapy.org/recovery/resources/PPU-A09-4