Reactivating Your Life (abridged and adapted from Bilsker and Paterson, 2005 by Andrew Grimmer, 2011)

Step 1: Identify activities to increase

There are four main areas in which depressed people often reduce their activity. These are: Involvement with Family & Friends; Personally Rewarding Activities; Self-Care; and Small Duties.

In order to identify some goals to work on, take a moment to consider each of these areas. List some activities in each area that have been affected by depression (or that had been neglected even before the depression began) and that could be increased.

Personally rewarding activities

Examples: Reading magazines. Walking in a natural setting. Doing crafts or hobbies. Planning travel. Seeing movies, plays, or games.

Increasing your activity in this area will make a difference because:

- 1. It reminds you of your own interests, the things that are important to you
- 2. It provides you with badly needed rewards as your depression starts to lift

Your ideas: 1 2 3

Self-Care

Examples: Getting dressed each day. Taking time to shower and get cleaned up. Exercising. Eating breakfast. Eating more nutritious food.

Increasing your activity in this area will make a difference because:

- 1. It will directly enhance your sense of physical well-being
- 2. It helps remind you that you are a competent person

Your ideas: 1 2 3

Small Duties

Examples: Opening the mail. Paying bills. Housecleaning. Grocery shopping. Running errands.

Increasing your activity in this area will make a difference because:

- 1. It increases your sense of control
- 2. It reduces tension with others as you begin to take on a share of the work

Your ideas: 1 2 3

Involvement with family and friends

Examples: Inviting people to do things. Keeping in contact with people where you used to live. Returning phone calls. Getting out to a social group or class.

Increasing your activity in this area will make a difference because:

- 1. It will help you regain a sense of being connected to others
- 2. It gives other people the chance to provide reassurance and support
- 3. It takes you away from being alone and thinking depressing thoughts

Your ideas: 1 2 3

Step 2: Choose two of these activities

Pick two activities that are most practical for you to begin changing now. Your first two choices should be from different areas.

Activity 1: Activity 2:

Step 3: Set realistic goals

Try setting some goals that would be realistic to do this week. Decide how often or for how long you will do the activity, and when you will do it. Now write your goals:

Activity	How often?	When exactly?
2		

Step 4 Carry out your goals

It's important to realize that you probably won't feel like doing your planned activities. In depression, your motivation to do things is much less than usual. But if you wait until you feel like it, it is likely that it won't happen. Do the activity because you set a goal for yourself and because it will help you get better. After you've done and checked off each goal, you will see what you've accomplished.

Step 5: Review your goals

After two weeks of doing these activities, review the situation.

- Do you want to increase the activities slightly or keep doing them at the same level until it feels pretty comfortable? It's your choice.
- This is a good time to add another activity. Pick one from another area. For example, if you had Self-Care and Personally Rewarding Activities goals before, choose one from Involvement with Family & Friends or from Small Duties.

	Activity	How often?	When exactly?
3.			

- Set your 3 activity goals.
- Write them in your schedule.
- Check off each activity as you do it.
- Praise yourself each time.
- Review the goals every two weeks to decide if they need modification and whether you are ready to add a new goal.

Eventually, you'll be working on 3-4 activities at a time or maybe more. Don't get carried away, though: having too many goals can get overwhelming.

Weekly activity schedule: plan a balance of activities over the coming week including self care, small duties, involvement with family and friends, and personally rewarding activities. So that you can learn more about the link between what you do and how you feel we suggest you record your mood next to each activity, scoring from 0-10, where 10 is the worst you could feel and 0 is not feeling at all down or depressed.

Evening	Afternoon	Morning	
			Monday
			Tuesday
			Wednesday
			Thursday
			Friday
			Saturday
			Sunday

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