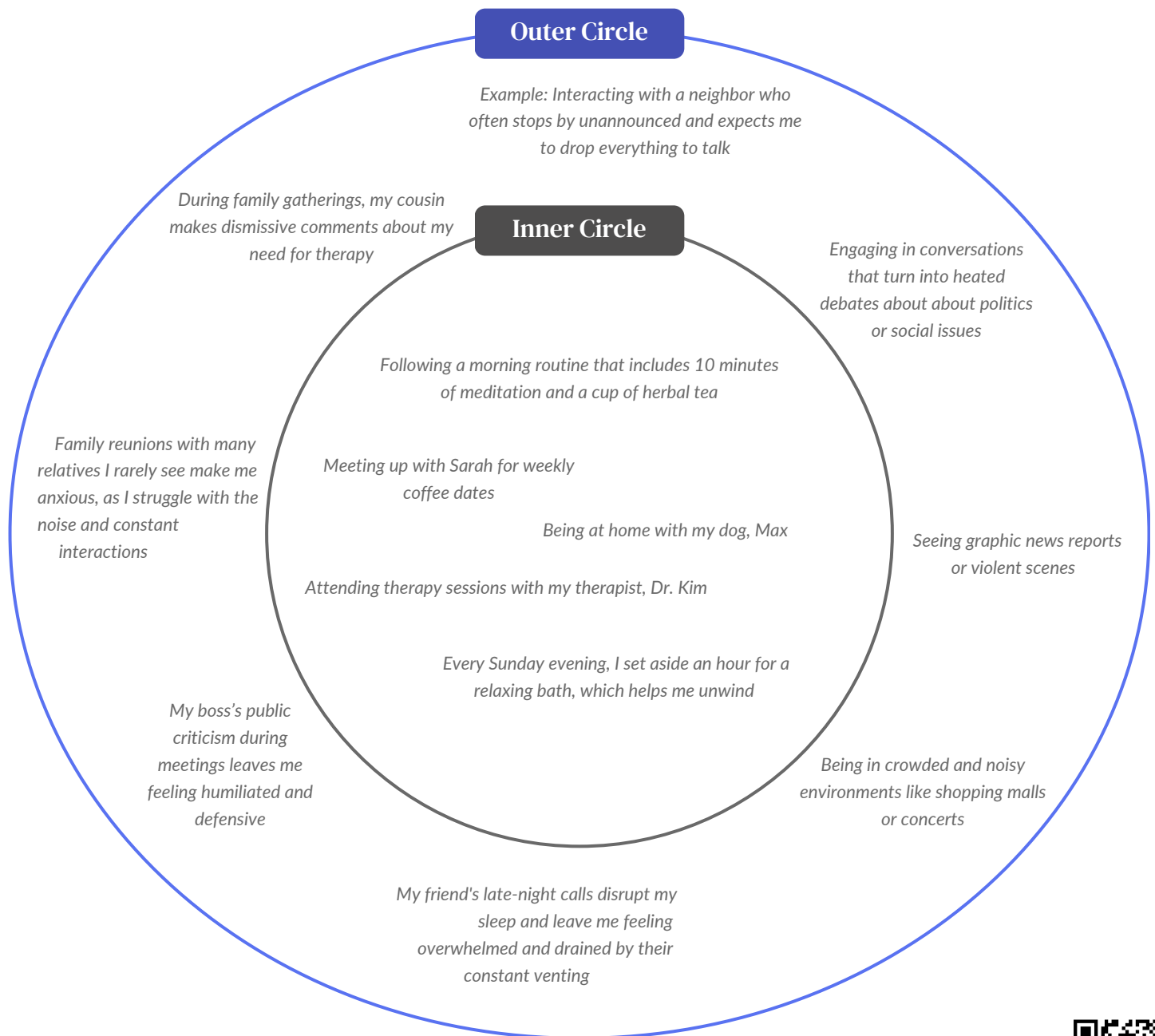


How to Set Healthy Boundaries

Setting boundaries can be particularly difficult for someone who has experienced trauma, as trauma can erode your sense of self-worth and make you fear rejection or conflict. **This worksheet is designed to help you understand and set healthy boundaries in your relationships and daily life.** By identifying your needs and limits, you can regain a sense of control and safety, which are crucial for your healing process.

PART 1: Visualize Your Boundaries

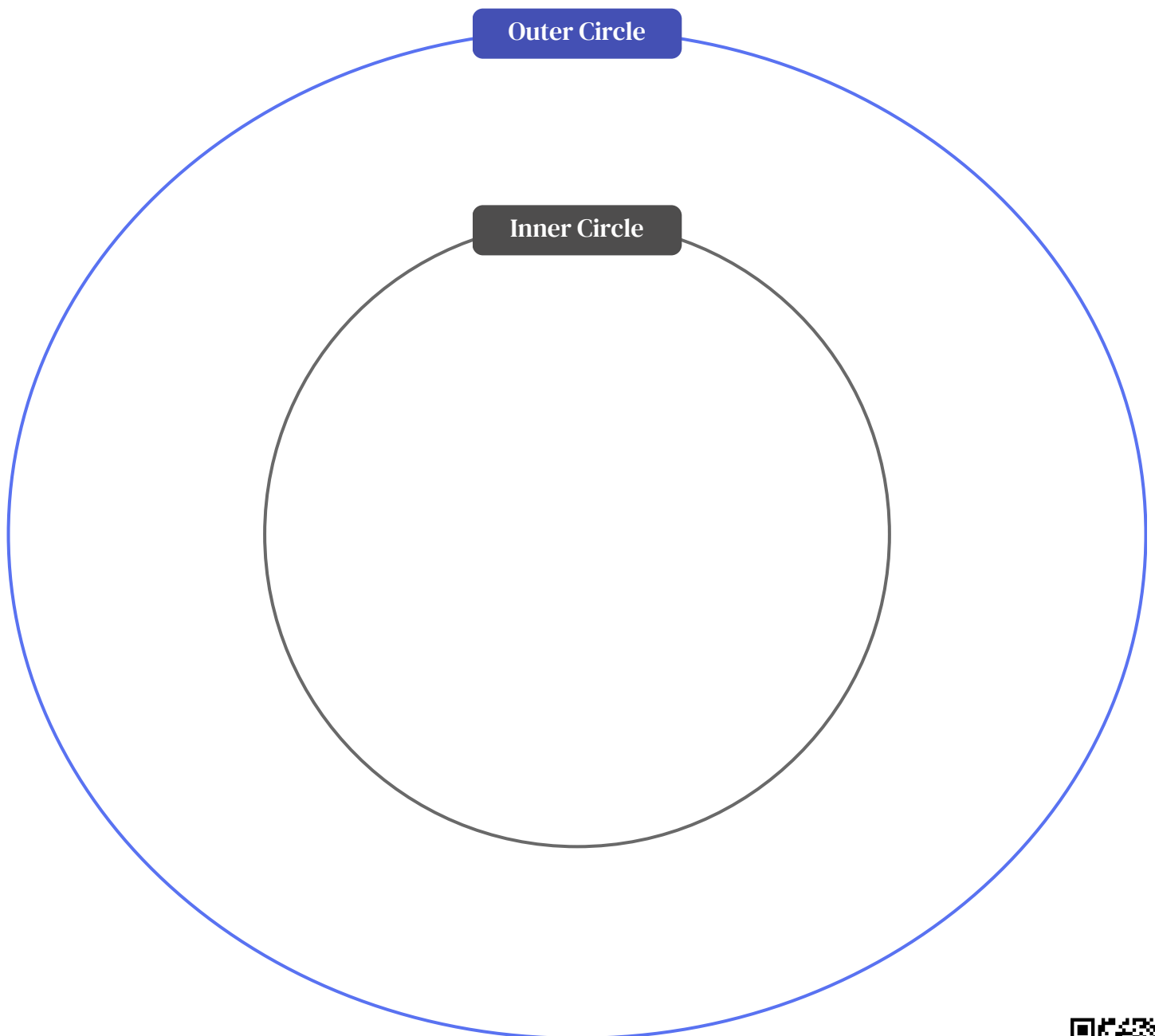
Inside the circle, write everything that makes you feel relaxed and safe. On the outside of the circle, write down anything or anyone that makes you feel stressed, uncomfortable, or unsafe. These are people or situations that are pushing your boundaries and need further attention.



How to Set Healthy Boundaries

When filling out your inner and outer circle, here are some questions to consider:

- What is currently causing me stress or unease?
- What am I excited about each day?
- What do I find myself dreading each day?
- Who or what energizes and uplifts me?
- Who or what leaves me feeling drained and exhausted?
- Who or what helps me feel safe, supported, and valued?



PART 2: How to Communicate Your Boundaries (Example Page)

Here are some basic rules and examples for communicating your boundaries effectively.

Use Confident Body Language

Stand or sit up straight, maintain eye contact, and use firm but calm gestures to convey confidence and assertiveness.

Be Clear & Set Consequences

Be specific about what behavior you want to change and clearly state what will happen if your boundary is not respected.

Keep Your Tone Calm and Respectful:

Speak calmly and assertively, avoiding raised voices or aggressive tones to maintain a respectful atmosphere.

Practice Active Listening:

Listen to the other person's response without interrupting and acknowledge their perspective while staying firm on your boundary.

Physical Boundaries

- "Please give me some physical space"
- "I am not comfortable with being touched right now."
- "I need to step away for a moment."
- "I prefer to keep a bit of distance, thank you."
- "I would appreciate it if you didn't stand so close."

Emotional Boundaries

- "I feel overwhelmed and need to take a break from this conversation."
- "I'm not comfortable discussing this right now."
- "I appreciate your concern, but I need some time to process my feelings alone."
- "Please respect my feelings on this matter."

Interpersonal Boundaries

- "I feel uncomfortable with this behavior and need it to stop."
- "I need you to respect my decision."
- "I am not okay with how you spoke to me."
- "Please do not involve me in this situation."
- "I need clarity and honesty in our communication."



PART 3: Develop Strategies for Maintaining Boundaries (Example Page)

Use the following prompts to create a plan for reinforcing your boundaries consistently and effectively.

Situation:

Example: My sister, who lives nearby, frequently drops by unannounced. Her unexpected visits often disrupt my personal time and the quiet environment I need to relax and recharge after work. Last week, she came over right when I was about to start a long-awaited self-care routine, and it completely threw off my evening.

Boundary I will set:

I will have a conversation with my sister to let her know that I need my home to be a space where I can relax and unwind without unexpected interruptions. I will ask her to call or text me before coming over to ensure it's a good time. I will emphasize that I still want to spend time with her but need to plan our visits in advance.

Any potential challenges:

My sister might feel hurt or think that she is not welcome anymore. She may perceive my request as a sign that I don't enjoy her company or that our relationship is less important to me. Additionally, she might not understand why this change is necessary if she feels that her visits haven't been a problem in the past.

How I will handle these challenges:

During our conversation, I will explain to my sister that her visits are important to me and that I value our time together. I will let her know that my request for advance notice allows me to take care of my mental health and personal needs. I will suggest specific times that work better for me. For example, I could say, "I really enjoy our time together and want to make sure I am fully present when we hang out. Could you call or text me before coming over to make sure it's a good time? I usually have more free time on Saturdays or after 6 PM on weekdays."



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PART 3: Develop Strategies for Maintaining Boundaries

Use the following prompts to create a plan for reinforcing your boundaries consistently and effectively.

Situation:

Boundary I will set:

Any potential challenges:

How I will handle these challenges:

