# QUESTIONING UNHELPFUL THOUGHTS



STEP ONE: IDENTIFY THE THOUGHT

Write down a thought that has been bothering you:

Unhelpful Thought:

### STEP TWO: EXAMINE THE THOUGHT

Use these questions to assess whether the thought is truly accurate and helpful:

- What facts or experiences challenge this thought?
- Are you falling into common thinking traps, such as assuming the worst, seeing things in extremes, or making assumptions about what others think?
- If someone you care about had this thought, how would you respond to them?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of thinking this way?
- Will this matter in six months?
- Can you find a more constructive or realistic way to look at this?

## STEP THREE: DEVELOP A MORE BALANCED THOUGHT

Rewrite the thought in a way that feels fair, realistic and helpful:

Reframed Thought:

### DIGGING DEEPER: EXPLORING CORE BELIEFS

If this thought still feels strong, try asking yourself:

- "If this were true, what would it mean?"
- Keep going until you uncover a deeper belief that might be influencing your thoughts.

This process can help bring your awareness to underlying fears or assumptions that may be shaping your perspective.

### REFLECTION

After working though this exercise, what insights have you gained? How has your perspective shifted?