

# COUNTERPRODUCTIVE COMMUNICATION

What Doesn't Work

Jacob Campbell, LICSW - Fall 2021 - SOWK 486 Heritage University

#### **BIG BANG THEORY**





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#### AGENDA

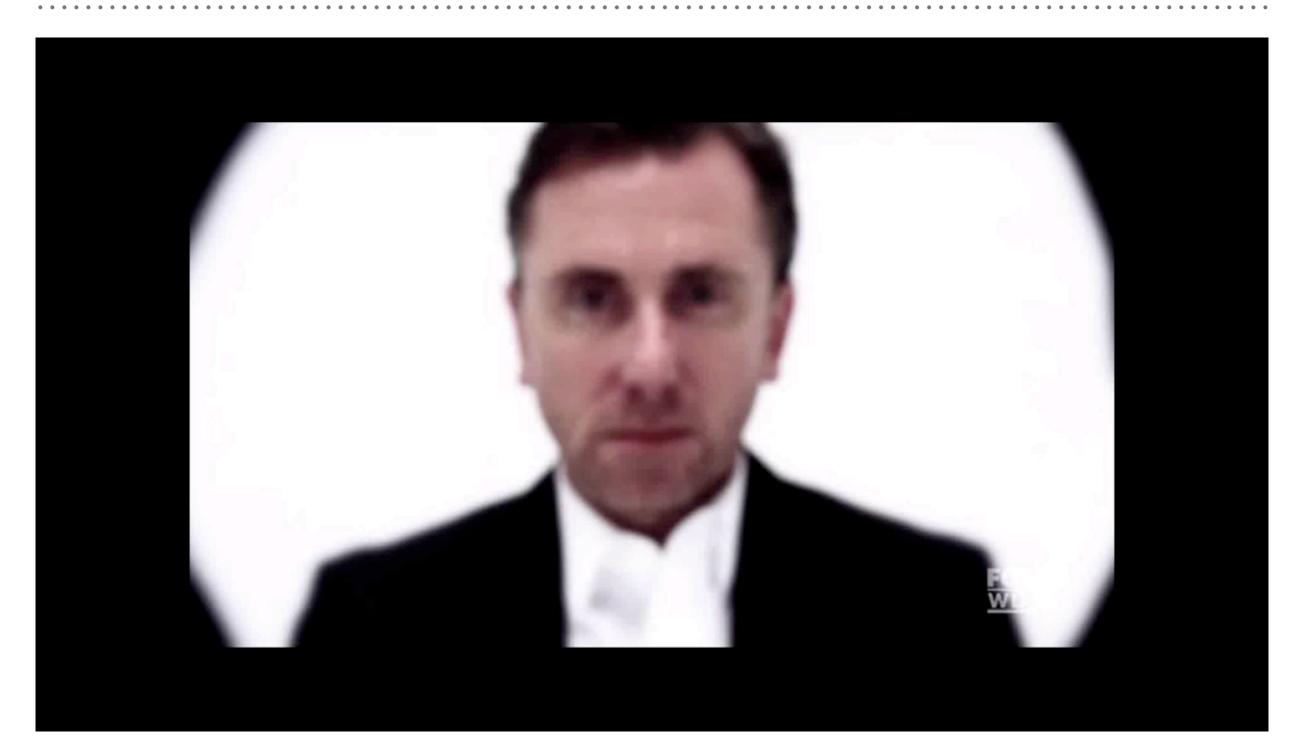
- Nonverbal communication
- Verbal communication
- Review and practice with some furthering skills
- ► Barriers to communication



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#### **VERBAL AND NONVERBAL BEHAVIOR**

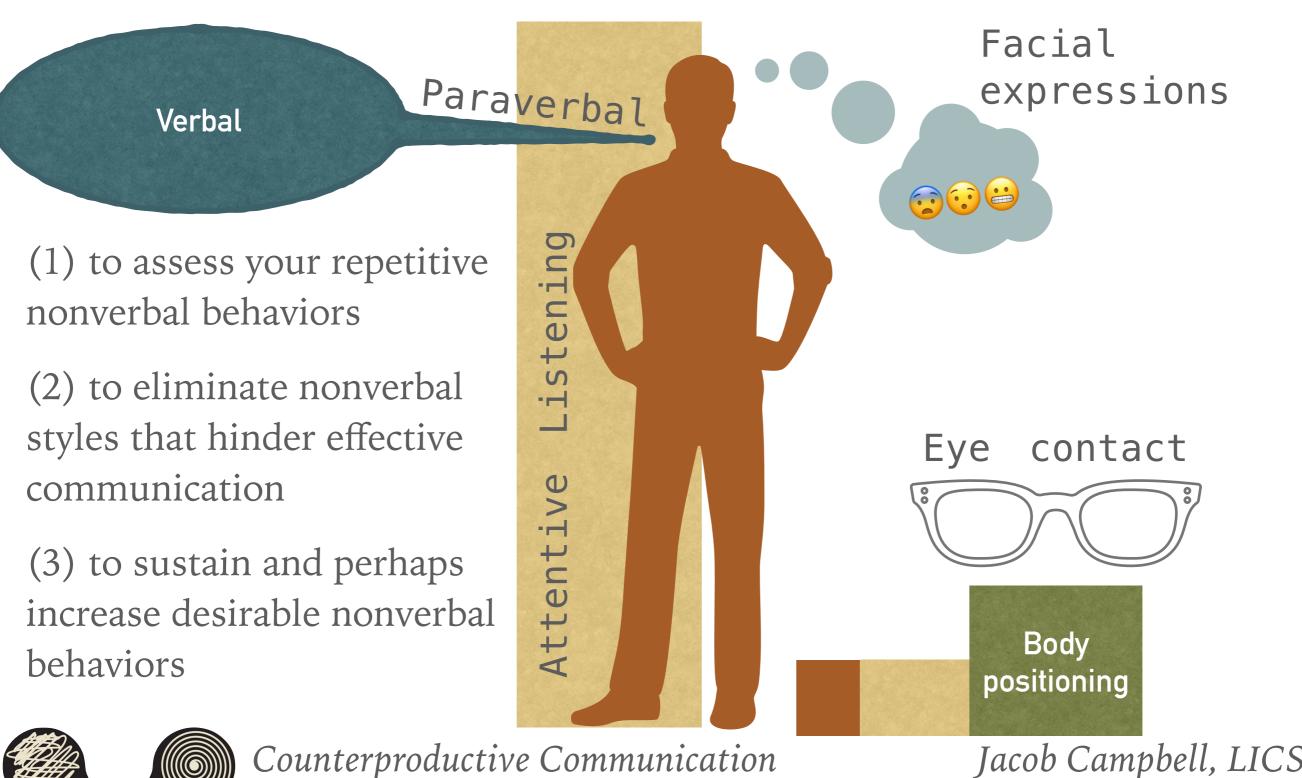
Lie to Me





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#### **VERBAL AND NONVERBAL BEHAVIOR**



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# THE OPPOSITE OF TALKING ISN'T LISTENING. THE OPPOSITE OF TALKING IS WAITING.

Fran Lebowitz



Attentive Listening



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#### POSTURE

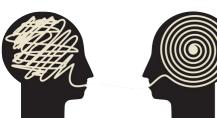
#### Recommended

Not Recommended

Arms and hands moderately expressive; appropriate gestures
Body leaning slightly forward; attentive but relaxed - Rigid body position; arms tightly folded

- Body turned at an angle to client
- Fidgeting with hands
- Squirming or rocking in chair
- Leaning back or placing feet on desk
- Hand or fingers over mouth
- Pointing finger for emphasis

(Hepworth et al., 2017) Jacob Campbell, LICSW Heritage University



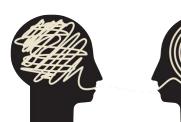
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#### **EYE CONTACT**



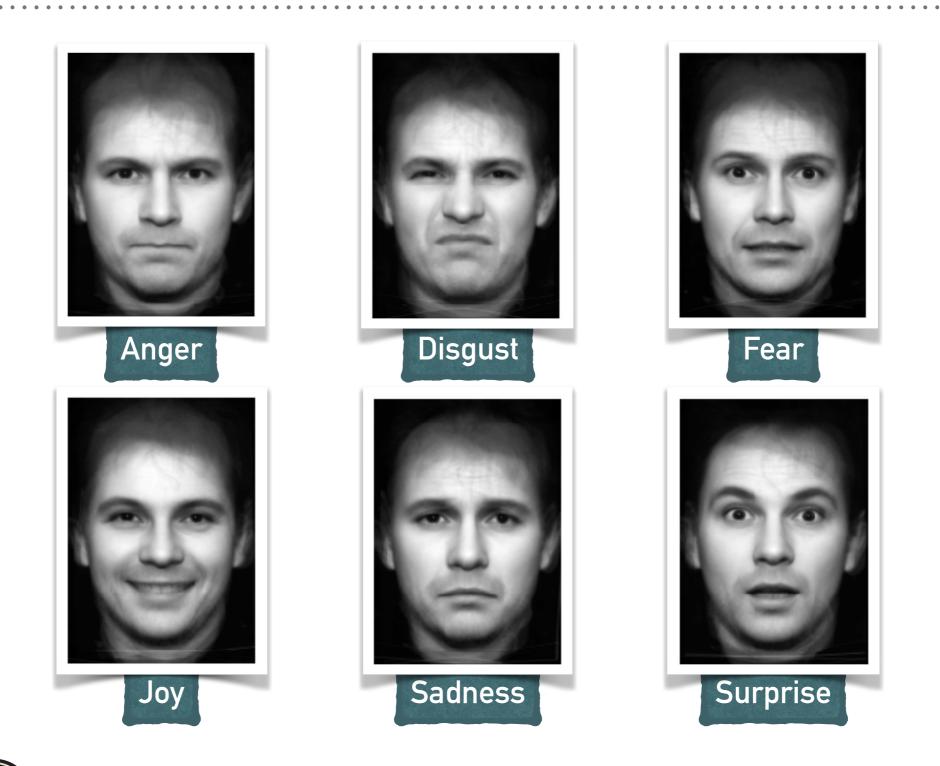
> Eye contact is important in establishing rapport with clients

It is important to remember that eye contact varies among different cultural backgrounds.



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#### **FACIAL FEATURES**





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#### FACIAL EXPRESSIONS

Recommended	Not Recommended
<ul> <li>Direct eye contact (except when culturally proscribed)</li> <li>Warmth and concern reflected in facial expression</li> <li>Eyes at same level as client's</li> <li>Appropriately varied and animated</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Avoidance of eye contact</li> <li>Staring or fixating on person or object</li> <li>Lifting eyebrow critically</li> <li>Eye level higher or lower than client's</li> <li>Nodding head excessively</li> </ul>

facial expressions

- Mouth relaxed; occasional smiles

- Frozen or rigid facial expressions
- Inappropriate slight smile
- Pursing or biting lips

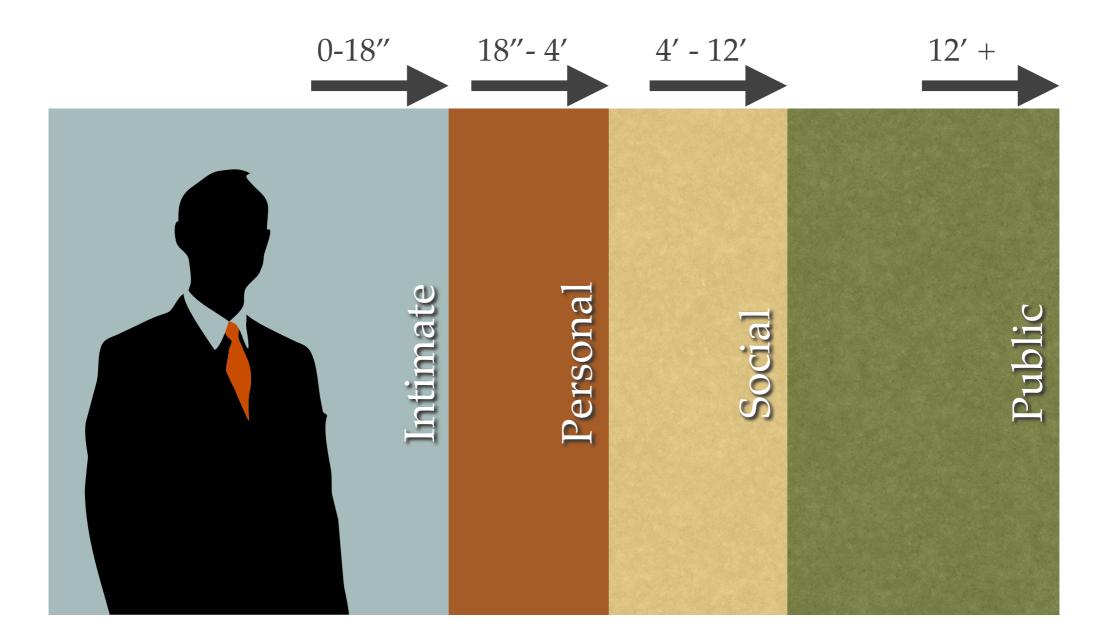
- Yawning

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#### **BODY POSITIONING**





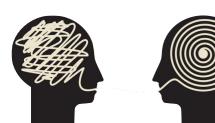
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#### **PHYSICAL PROXIMITY**

#### Recommended

#### Not Recommended

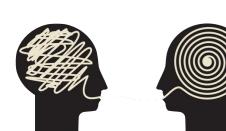
- Three to five feet between chairs
- Excessive closeness or distanceTalking across desk or other barrier



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#### PARAVERBAL COMMUNICATION

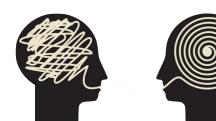




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#### TONE OF VOICE

How can I help you



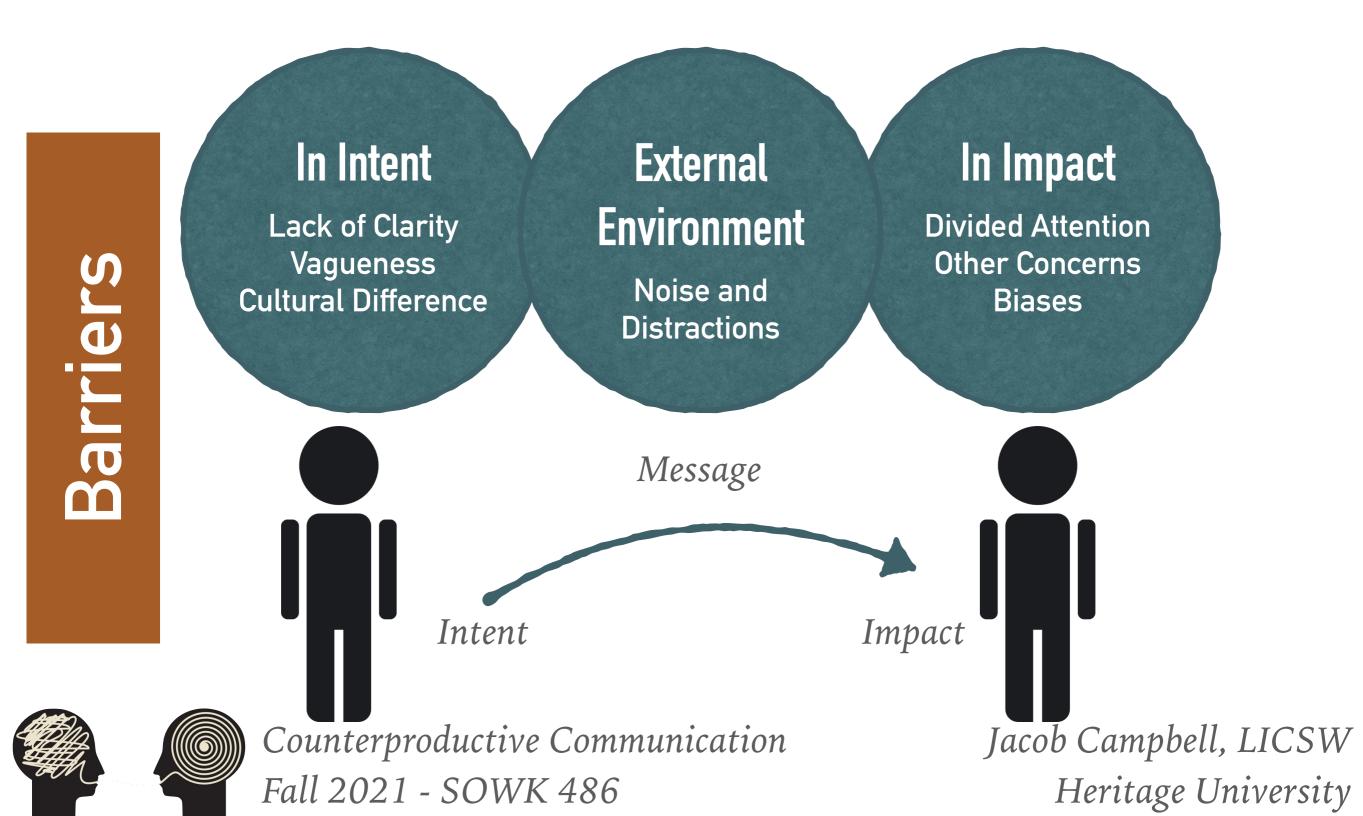
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Recommended	Not Recommended
- Clearly audible but not loud - Warmth in tone of voice - Voice modulated to reflect nuances of feeling and emotional tone of client messages - Moderate speech tempo	<ul> <li>Mumbling or speaking inaudibly</li> <li>Monotonic voice</li> <li>Halting speech</li> <li>Frequent grammatical errors</li> <li>Prolonged silences</li> <li>Excessively animated speech</li> <li>Slow, rapid, or staccato speech</li> <li>Nervous laughter</li> <li>Consistent clearing of throat</li> <li>Speaking loudly</li> </ul>
	(Hepworth et al., 201



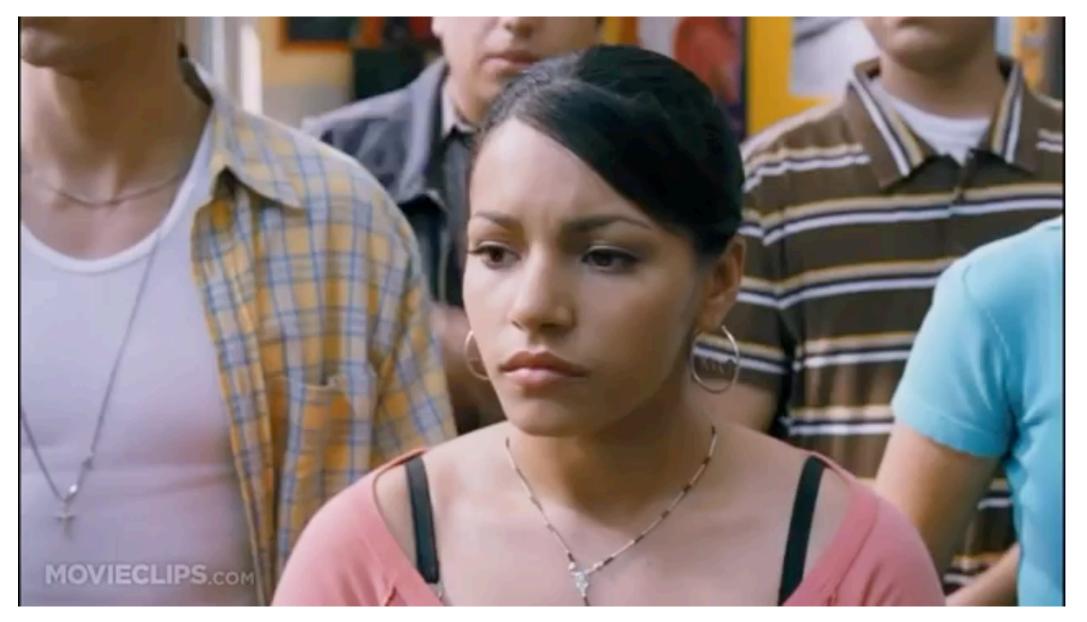
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#### **VERBAL COMMUNICATION**

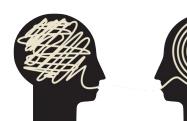


#### **EXAMPLE OF SOMEBODY SHARING INTENSE FEELINGS**

#### I am Home



From LaGravenese, R. (2007, January 5). Freedom Writers [Drama]. Paramount Pictures.



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#### **DISCRETE VERBAL FOLLOWING SKILLS**

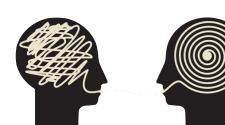
Reflection responses

**Reflection of Content** 

Reflection of Affect

- Simple reflections
- Complex reflections

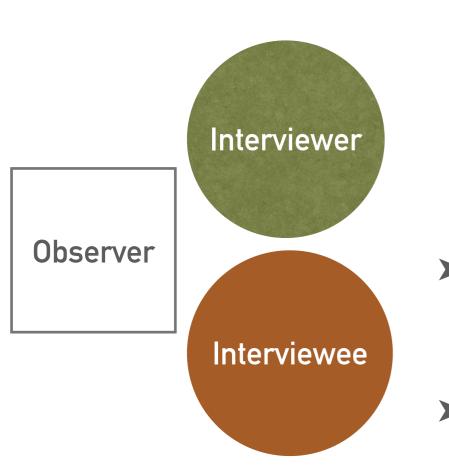
Reframing

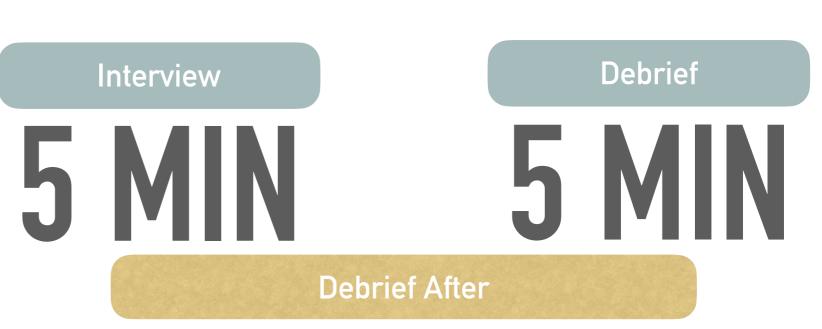


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#### FOLLOWING SKILLS

#### Reflection responses



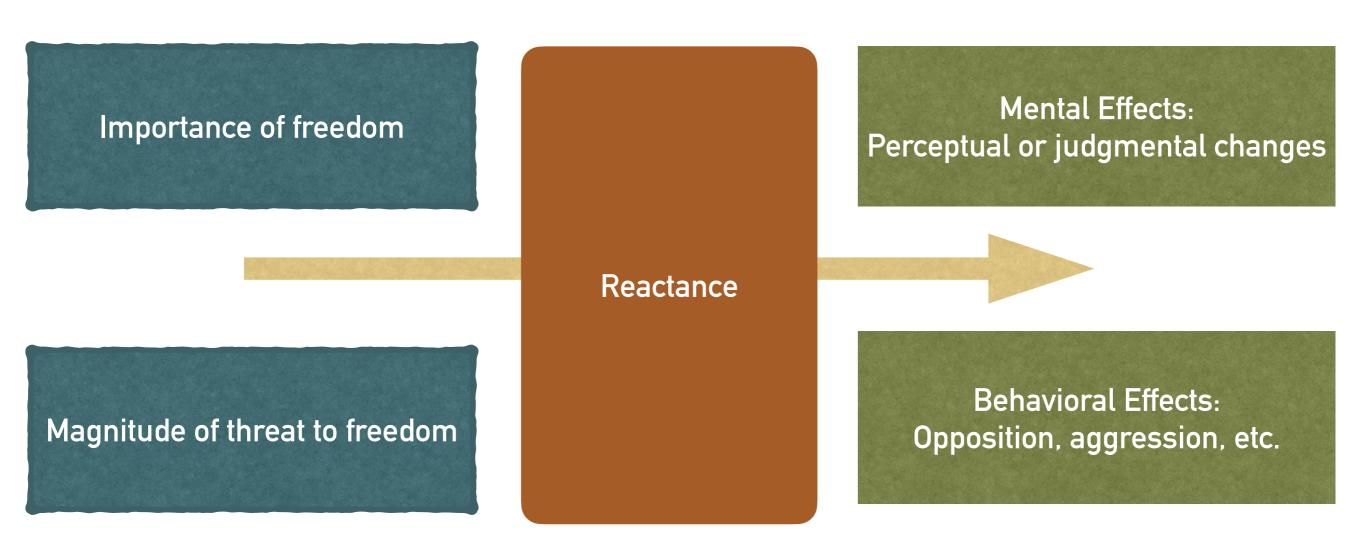


- How did it feel as the interviewer to use the techniques
- ► How did it feel as the interviewee
- What did the observer notice



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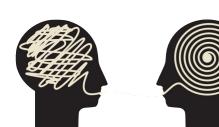
#### **REACTANCE THEORY**





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- 1. Ordering, directing, commanding
- 2. Warning, admonishing, threatening
- 3. Exhorting, moralizing, preaching
- 4. Advising and giving solutions or suggestions
- 5. Lecturing, teaching, giving logical arguments
- 6. Judging, criticizing, disagreeing, blaming



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- 7. Praising, agreeing
- 8. Name calling, ridiculing, shaming
- 9. Interpreting, analyzing, diagnosing
- 10.Reassuring, sympathizing, consoling, supporting
- 11. Probing, questioning, interrogating
- 12. Withdrawing, distracting, humoring, diverting



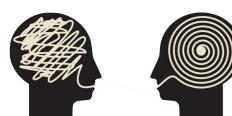
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#### **SAFE CONVERSATIONS**

# Discussion of "safe" topics may help lower defenses and increase openness

#### Brief discussion can be appropriate





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