Expressing Empathy

To establish trust and rapport, to resolve ambivalence, to evoke "The Golden Sigh," and to invite new possibilities, evocative coaches may seek to express empathy using the Nonviolent Communication® (NVC) model developed by Marshall Rosenberg and the Center for Nonviolent Communication (www.cnvc.org).

The NVC model distinguishes between observations and evaluations, feelings and thoughts, needs and strategies, as well as requests and demands. The lists on the following pages can assist coaches to gain facility with using these distinctions in our communications with teachers. The Choice Points diagram, below, illustrates two key opportunities to use these distinctions in coaching as well as in life.

NVC Distinctions Feelings Observations Needs Requests See / Hear I Feel Because **Would You Notice** I Need Be Willing To ...? Objective Wonderful Universal Connection Descriptions Miserable Requirements Action Evaluations Thoughts Strategies Demands Choice Points in NVC Blame Judge Observation Mv My Request Choice (What I saw Evaluate Feelings Needs of Myself or heard) Diagnose Correct Guess Guess Connection Request: Your Your How does that resonate with your experience? Needs Feelings Connection Request: Observation Choice Would you be willing to share what you heard me say? Express Express My My **Action Request:** Feelings Needs Would you be willing to ... (i.e., do something or agree to do something, right now)?

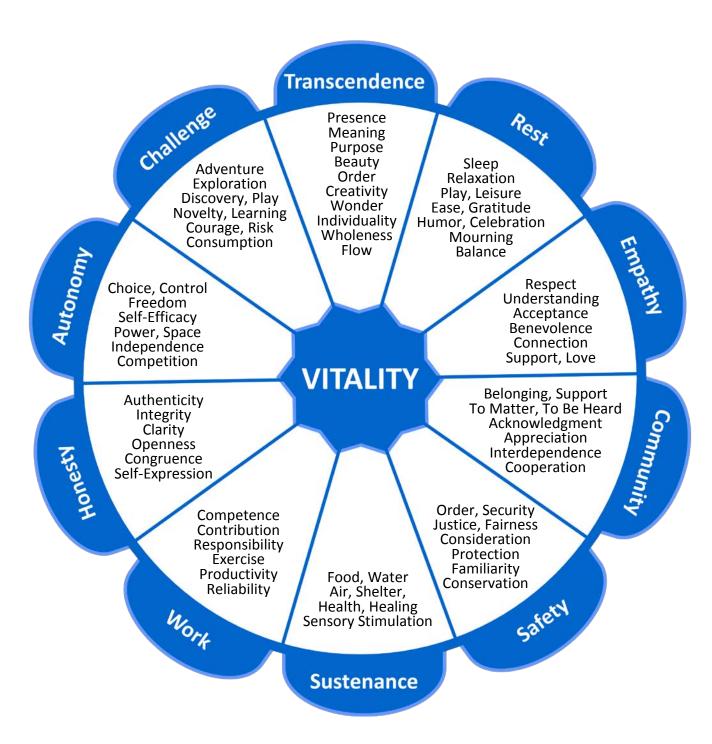
The Choice Points diagram is inspired by Gregg Kendrick http://www.basileia.org

Feeling Words

WHEN NEEDS ARE NOT BEING MET	WHEN NEEDS ARE BEING MET
Hostile	Exhilarated
Animosity, Antagonistic, Appalled, Aversion, Cold, Contempt, Disgusted, Dislike, Distain, Hate, Horrified, Repulsed, Scorn, Surly, Vengeful, Vindictive	Exhibitated Ecstatic, Elated, Enthralled, Exuberant, Giddy, Silly, Slap-happy
Angry	Excited
Enraged, Furious, Incensed, Indignant, Irate, Livid, Mad, Outraged, Resentful, Ticked off	Alive, Amazed, Animated, Eager, Energetic, Enthusiastic, Invigorated, Lively, Passionate
Annoyed Aggravated, Bitter, Cranky, Cross, Dismayed, Disgruntled, Displeased, Exasperated, Frustrated, Grouchy, Impatient, Irked, Irritated, Miffed, Peeved, Resentful, Sullen, Uptight	Inspired Amazed, Astonished, Awed, Dazzled, Radiant, Rapturous, Surprised, Thrilled, Uplifted, Wonder
Upset Agitated, Alarmed, Discombobulated, Disconcerted, Disturbed, Disquieted, Perturbed, Rattled, Restless, Troubled, Turbulent, Turmoil, Uncomfortable, Uneasy, Unnerved, Unsettled	Joyful Amused, Buoyant, Delighted, Elated, Ecstatic, Glad, Gleeful, Happy, Jubilant, Merry, Mirthful, Overjoyed, Pleased, Radiant, Tickled
Tense Antsy, Anxious, Bitter, Distressed, Distraught, Edgy, Fidgety, Frazzled, Irritable, Jittery, Nervous, Overwhelmed, Pressured, Restless, Stressed out, Uneasy	Relaxed At ease, Carefree, Comfortable, Open
Afraid Apprehensive, Concerned, Dread, Fearful, Foreboding, Frightened, Hesitant, Mistrustful, Panicked, Petrified, Scared, Suspicious, Terrified, Timid, Trepidation, Unnerved, Wary, Worried, Reserved, Sensitive, Shaky, Unsteady	Curious Adventurous, Alert, Interested, Intrigued, Inquisitive, Fascinated, Spellbound, Stimulated
Vulnerable Cautious, Fragile, Guarded , Helpless, Insecure, Helpless, Leery, Reluctant	Confident Empowered, Proud, Safe, Secure, Self-assured
Confused Ambivalent, Baffled, Bewildered, Dazed, Flustered, Hesitant, Lost, Mystified, Perplexed, Puzzled, Skeptical, Torn	Engaged Absorbed, Alert, Ardent, Curious, Engrossed, Enchanted, Entranced, Involved
Embarrassed Ashamed, Chagrined, Contrite, Guilty, Disgraced, Humiliated, Mortified, Remorse, Regretful, Self-conscious	Hopeful Expectant, Encouraged, Optimistic
Longing Envious, Jealous, Nostalgic, Pining, Wistful, Yearning	Grateful Appreciative, Moved, Thankful, Touched
Tired Beat, Burned out, Depleted, Exhausted, Fatigued, Lethargic, Listless, Sleepy, Weary, Worn out	Refreshed Enlivened, Rejuvenated, Renewed, Rested, Restored, Revived, Energetic
Disconnected Alienated, Aloof, Apathetic, Bored, Cold, Detached, Disengaged, Disinterested, Distant, Distracted, Indifferent, Lethargic, Listless, Lonely, Numb, Removed, Uninterested, Withdrawn	Affectionate Closeness, Compassionate, Friendly, Loving, Openhearted, Sympathetic, Tender, Trusting, Warm
Sad Blue, Depressed, Dejected, Despair, Despondent, Disappointed, Discouraged, Disheartened, Downcast, Downhearted, Forlorn, Gloomy, Grief, Heavy hearted, Hopeless, Melancholy, Sorrow, Unhappy	Peaceful Blissful, Calm, Centered, Clear headed, Mellow, Quiet, Serene, Tranquil
Shocked Appalled, Disbelief, Dismay, Horrified, Mystified, Startled, Surprised	Relieved Complacent, Composed, Cool, Trusting
Pain Agony, Anguished, Bereaved, Devastated, Heartbroken, Hurt, Miserable, Wretched	Content Glad, Cheerful, Fulfilled, Satisfied

The Wheel of Needs

Universal Human Needs



Inspired by the work of Jim & Jori Manske (2005) http://radicalcompassion.com, Marshall Rosenberg (2005) http://www.cnvc.org, and Manfred Max-Neef (1992), Chilean economist

Reframing Causal Attributions

Causal Attributions	Possible Primary Feelings	Possible Underlying Needs
Attacked	Scared, Angry	Safety, Respect
Belittled	Indignant, Distressed, Tense, Embarrassed, Outraged	Respect, Autonomy, To Be Seen, Acknowledgement, Appreciation
Blamed	Angry, Scared, Antagonistic, Bewildered, Hurt	Fairness, Justice, Understanding
Betrayed	Stunned, Outraged, Hurt, Disappointed	Trust, Dependability, Honesty, Commitment, Clarity
Boxed In	Frustrated, Scared, Anxious	Autonomy, Choice, Freedom, Self-Efficacy
Coerced	Angry, Frustrated, Scared, Anxious,	Autonomy, Choice, Freedom, Self-Efficacy
Criticized	Humiliated, Irritated, Scared, Anxious, Embarrassed	Understanding, Acknowledgement, Recognition
Disrespected	Furious, Hurt, Embarrassed, Frustrated	Respect, Trust, Acknowledgement
Distrusted	Hurt, Sad, Frustrated	Honesty, Authenticity, Integrity, Trust,
Harassed	Angry, Aggravated, Pressured, Frightened, Exasperated	Respect, Consideration, Ease,
Hassled	Irritated, Irked, Distressed, Frustrated	Autonomy, Ease, Calm, Space
Insulted	Angry, Embarrassed, Incensed	Respect, Consideration, Acknowledgement, Recognition
Interrupted	Irritated, Hurt, Resentful	Respect, Consideration, To Be Heard
Intimidated	Frightened, Scared, Vulnerable	Safety, Power, Self-Efficacy, Independence
Left Out	Sad, Lonely, Anxious	Belonging, Community, Connection, To Be Seen
Manipulated	Resentful, Vulnerable, Sad, Angry	Autonomy, Consideration, Choice, Power
Misunderstood	Upset, Dismayed, Frustrated	Understanding, To Be Heard, Clarity
Overworked	Angry, Tired, Frustrated, Resentful	Respect, Consideration, Rest, Caring, Ease
Pressured	Overwhelmed, Anxious, Resentful	Relaxation, Ease, Clarity, Space, Consideration
Rejected	Hurt, Scared, Angry, Defiant	Belonging, Connection, Acknowledgment
Taken Advantage Of	Angry, Powerless, Frustrated	Autonomy, Power, Trust, Choice, Connection, Acknowledgment
Taken For Granted	Hurt, Disappointed, Angry	Appreciation, Acknowledgement, Recognition, Consideration
Tricked	Indignant, Embarrassed, Furious	Integrity, Honesty, Trust
Unappreciated	Sad, Hurt, Frustrated, Irritated	Appreciation, Respect, Acknowledgement
Unsupported	Sad, Hurt, Resentful	Support, Understanding
Violated	Outraged, Agitated, Anxious, Sad	Safety, Trust, Space, Respect

Communication Patterns That Interfere With Connection

"Don't just do something, sit there!"

- Advising: "I think you should..." "How come you didn't...?"
- Blaming: "You should have known better; look at the mess you've made."
- Commiserating: "Oh, you poor thing."
- Comparing: "If you were just more like ..."
- Consoling: "You poor thing; you did the best you could."
- Correcting: "That's not how it happened."
- Demanding: "You must...you have to...you need to..."
- Denying: "You really had no choice." "You really leave me no choice."
- Diagnosing: "It sounds like you have ADD." "He's really a stupid idiot."
- Educating: "This could turn into a very positive experience for you if you just..."
- Explaining: "I would have called but..."
- Incentivizing: "If you do this, you will get rewarded (or punished)."
- Interrogating: "When did this begin?"
- Judging: "That's a bad thing for you to do."
- One-Upping: "That's nothing; wait till you hear what happened to me."
- Shutting down: "Cheer up. Get over it. It's time to move on."
- Story-telling: "That reminds me of the time..."
- Victimizing: "It's not your fault; there's nothing else you could have done."

Adapted From Communication Basics: An Overview of Nonviolent Communication by Rachelle Lamb (2002)