Example Form 11.2b: Record of Emotion Exposure Practice

Exposure Task (Briefly describe the activity you have chosen to bring up an emotional response)

Going for a walk to a coffee shop

Preparation Before the Exposure

Negative Automatic Thoughts (List the thoughts you have about completing this exposure)

I won't have the energy

I just don't feel up to it

Seeing people chatting at the coffee shop will just remind me of how depressed I am

It really sucks to do things I used to enjoy and feel blah about it

Emotional Behaviors (List emotional behaviors that might prevent you from fully experiencing the emotions brought up by the exposure)

Cut the walk short

Ruminate on how I used to enjoy these types of activities more

Other Interpretations (Are there ways you can think more flexibly about this exposure?)

I might feel more energetic after I get going. Just because I don't feel like it. doesn't mean I can't do it.

I don't know how I'll feel when I get to the coffee shop, but I do know I'll definitely feel depressed if I stay home.

I can cope with these feelings by focusing on the present – the taste of the coffee, the feeling of the pavement under my feet.

Alternative Action (Identify other behaviors that will allow you to fully engage with the emotions brought up by the exposure)

Commit to the goal of making it to the coffee shop

Mindfully attend to my surroundings as I walk

Mindful Emotion Awareness

Remember to take a <u>nonjudgmental</u>, willing stance toward the emotions generated by the exposure

Remember to stay <u>anchored in the present</u> during the exposure.

Record of Emotion Exposure Practice

What emotions did you experience? Sadness/numbness

Break down of your emotional experience into its 3 parts

Thoughts

Everything is such an effort for me. It is so embarrassing that I have to force myself to go get coffee

Physical Sensations

Fatique, lump in throat

Behaviors

Listened to music on the walk, just got a regular coffee instead of the latte I really wanted

Mindful Emotion Awareness

How willing were you to experience your emotions (0 [not at all] - 10 [extremely])? 5

How effective were you at anchoring yourself in the present (0 [not at all] - 10 [extremely])? 7

Cognitive Flexibility

How effective were you at thinking flexibly during the exposure (0 [not at all] - 10 [extremely])? Z

Countering Emotional Behaviors

How effective were you at engaging in alternative actions during the exposure (0 [not at all] - 10 [extremely])? $\underline{4}$

What did you learn by engaging in this exposure?

What did you learn about the task/situation you faced? What did you learn about your emotions? Did your negative predictions occur? What did you learn about your ability to cope?

I learned that I can do things I used to enjoy, even though I'm not really feeling it now. I wasn't focused on my depression the whole time – I was able to notice how nice the weather was.

What can you do differently in your next exposure? How can you use your skills to fully approach the emotions brought up by these exercises? I could try to do the walk without my headphones on and really treat myself to a fancy coffee