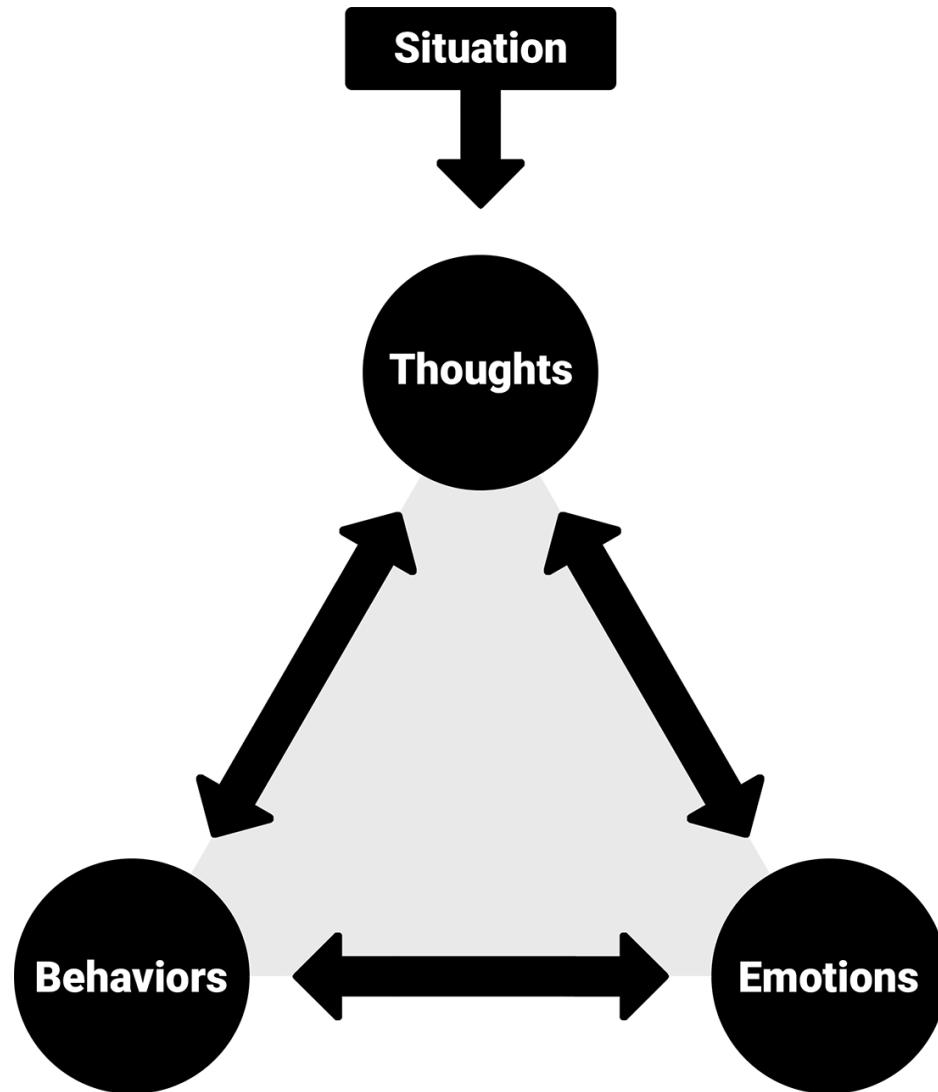


The Cognitive Triangle

The **cognitive triangle** shows how thoughts, emotions, and behaviors affect one another. This means changing your *thoughts* will change how you *feel* and *behave*.



A **situation** is anything that happens in your life, which triggers the cognitive triangle.

Thoughts are your interpretations of a situation. For example, if a stranger looks at you with an angry expression, you could think: "Oh no, what did I do wrong?" or "Maybe they are having a bad day."

Emotions are feelings, such as happy, sad, angry, or worried. Emotions can have physical components as well as mental, such as low energy when feeling sad, or a stomachache when nervous.

Behaviors are your response to a situation. Behaviors include actions such as saying something or doing something (or, choosing not to do something).