

MODULE 15

Closing Ritual

All individuals in the program will participate in closing ritual when they are ready to leave the group. If the participant continues in a community group, they will still be given the opportunity to participate in a "closing".

During a member's final group session, a special journal will be passed among group members for them to write some farewell and thought for the member to take with him/her for the rest of his/her healing journey. Each member will say something supportive to the departing member, perhaps remarking on some progress he/she has made during the group. Group leader(s) will model appropriate farewell messages.

Goal – All group members will experience a healthy closure.

Goal – Members will learn to demarcate leavings and their importance to a group. The farewell ritual will help members to internalize the messages from the group experience.

SONDRA'S STORY

I've learned so much about myself from this group. I now realize that being a woman doesn't mean that you have to be submissive and always be the victim. I'm clearer about who is responsible for things. I realize that my husband was responsible for beating me, but I need to accept responsibility for not leaving him. My sense of who I am comes from inside me now. I don't rely on my current boyfriend to tell me who I am. I know I have a ways to go, but I feel happy about who I am for the first time in my life, and I am excited about the person I am becoming.

I never thought I could get out of the hole I was in. It seemed so hopeless with no solutions. Now I see that I have a voice and that I can be responsible for my own life and not be controlled by others. Being a woman can mean that you're strong and in control of your life.

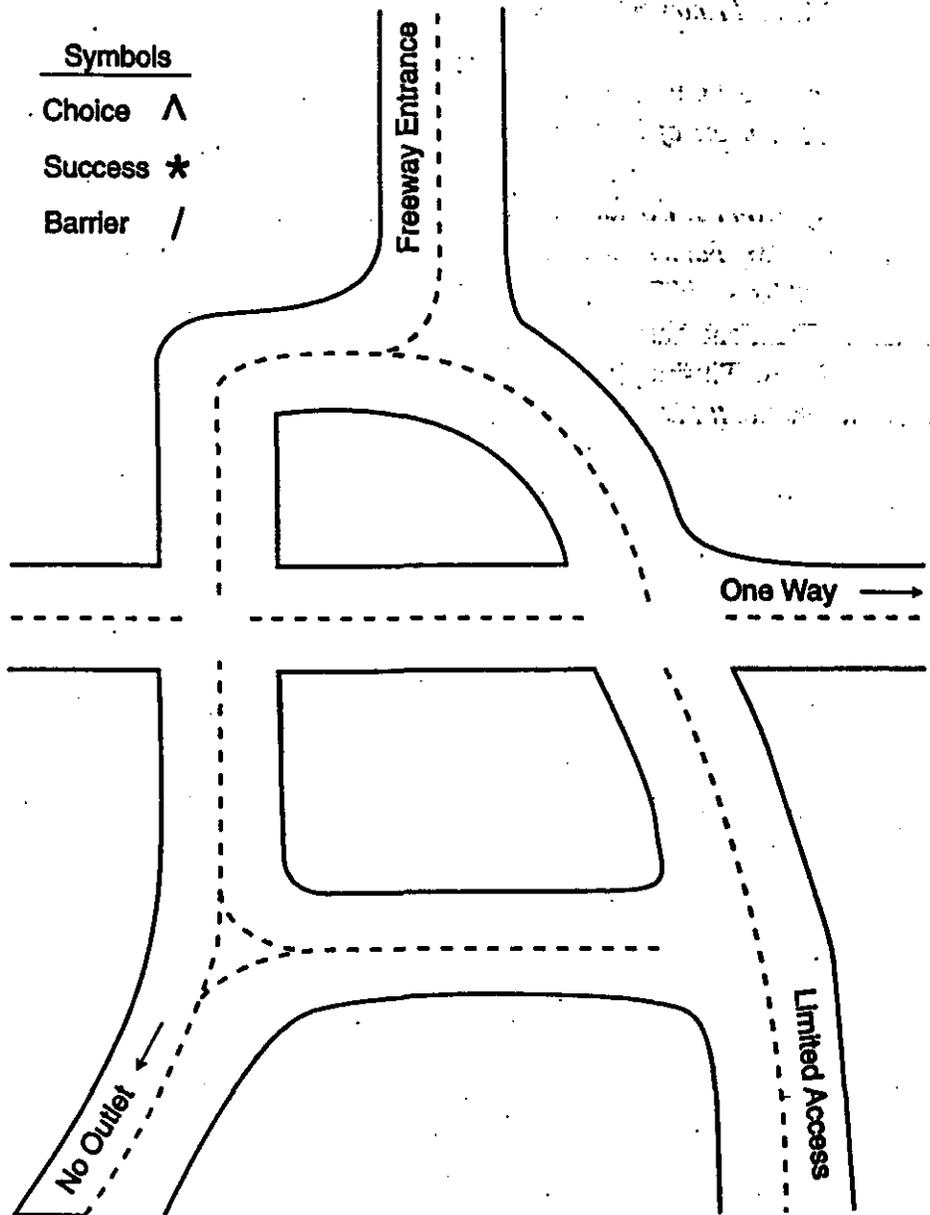
ITEM G ROAD MAP

Symbols

Choice \wedge

Success $*$

Barrier /



Members: Using the symbols shown, include successes, barriers, and important choices made in your lives.