Basic Communication Tool



- **1) When**.....(talk about the situation or specific behavior/action of the other person).
- 2) I feel.....(be concise if you can be about identifying the emotion(s))
- **3) I understand that**.... (speak to that person's goodness/intentions, and where they may be coming from).
- 4) At the same time, what I need is/what is important to me is that..... (state the need you have and who should meet that need-self or someone else- or if there is a boundary discussion to be had)

Examples:

- **1) When** you make comments about me eating food or the amount I am eating (etc)
- 2) I feel/am starting to feel judged and looked down upon, and even objectified a bit
- **3) I understand that** you care about my health and may think that these types of comments are helpful
- **4) At the same time,** what I eat is not your business, and I am going to need you to not make these comments in the future.
- 1) When you express rage towards me to the point of it being antagonizing
- 2) I feel uncomfortable, unseen, and mistreated.
- **3) I understand that** you have intense emotions that you would like to process with me, and valid needs that you want to have met
- **4) At the same time, I am wondering if** we can pause for a minute (15, etc) so that we can both deescalate and give this conversation a fair shake so we can work better together