

Trauma-Informed Interviewing (TII)

TII is an ethical framework for maximizing accuracy in recall while minimizing the risk of re-traumatization. It shifts the focus from "What is wrong with you?" to **"What happened to you?"**

The Three Pillars of TII Protocol

Effective TII is built on a non-negotiable foundation of environment, interaction, and process.



Safety & Trust

Ensure the physical and psychological security of the subject. Use clear, predictable language. Offer control over the environment (breaks, lighting).



Collaboration

Position the interview as a joint effort to uncover information. Avoid confrontational language. The interviewer is a guide, not an inquisitor.



Non-Judgment

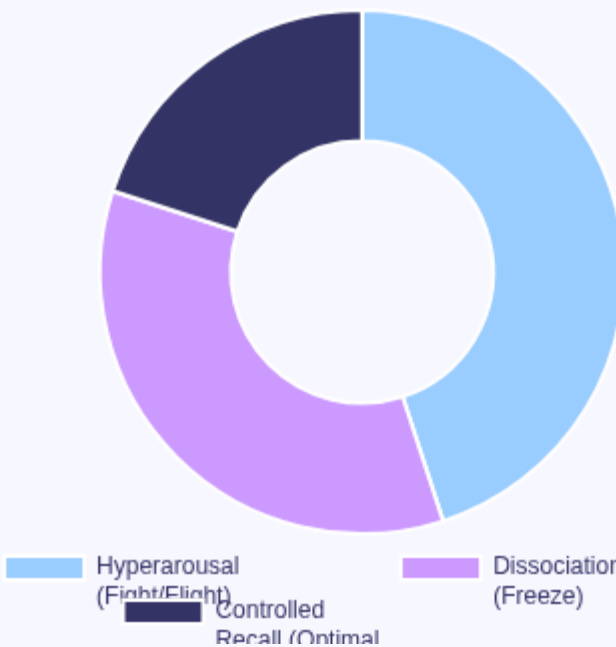
Validate the subject's feelings and reaction to trauma. Do not assume intent or competence. Focus entirely on factual recall.

The Impact on Memory Retrieval

Trauma triggers primitive survival responses, prioritizing action over detailed memory encoding and retrieval. TII techniques aim to downregulate the limbic system to access the narrative memory cortex.

- Hyperarousal (45%):** Fight/Flight state; fragmented, sensory-driven recall.
- Dissociation (35%):** Freeze state; emotional numbness, inability to construct a narrative.
- Controlled Recall (20%):** Optimal state for accurate, detailed retrieval.

Recall State Distribution Without TII



TII vs. Traditional Interviewing Metrics

TII prioritizes non-leading, exploratory questioning over rapid extraction, proven to increase the quantity and quality of admissible information.

