

*To my parents, Homer and Joanne Middleton, for unconditionally providing their love, support, guidance, encouragement, and wonderful senses of humor.*

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ABSTRACT</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
The Problem and its Setting	1
Rationale for the Study	2
Theoretical Framework	6
Purpose of the Study	8
Research Topics	9
<b>CHAPTER II: LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>10</b>
Introduction	10
Clients' and Therapists' Perceptions of Therapy	12
Clients and therapists perceptions of helpful/unhelpful aspects of therapy	12
Clients' and therapists' experiences of solution-focused therapy	20
Clients' and therapists' experiences of domestic violence treatment	24
African-American Clients in Therapy	28
Conclusion	36
<b>CHAPTER III: METHODS</b>	<b>38</b>
Introduction	38
Participants and Selection Process	38
Procedures	40
Instruments	43
Design and Analysis	47
<b>CHAPTER IV: RESULTS</b>	<b>50</b>
Introduction	50
Description of Participants	50
Justin and Tamara	51
Alan and Laurie	51
Ben and Debbie	53
Tom and Becky	54
Josh and Amy	55
Therapists	56
Prior Expectations	57
Changes	58
Concerns	59
Ideas About What Would Be Helpful	60

<b>Helpful</b>	<b>62</b>
Therapist Qualities and Behaviors	62
Couples Therapy Group	82
Therapy Structure	90
Positive Outcome Themes Associated with Helpful Aspects of Therapy	95
<b>Not Helpful</b>	<b>98</b>
Therapist Behaviors	99
Couples Group	103
Therapy Structure	104
Negative Outcomes Themes Associated with Not Helpful Aspects of Therapy	108
<b>Racial Difference as a Therapeutic Issue</b>	<b>112</b>
Racial difference does not matter	112
Racial difference might matter	115
Racial difference is a strength	116
<b>Domestic Violence Treatment Controversy</b>	<b>117</b>
Time-Out as a Tool to Address Violence	118
Views on Traditional Domestic Violence Treatment	123
Couples Therapy as a Treatment Option for Domestic Violence	127
<b>Changes</b>	<b>132</b>
Changes in the Women	134
Changes in the Men	135
Changes in the Relationships	137
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Post-Script</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>CHAPTER V: DISCUSSION</b>	<b>141</b>
Introduction	141
Summary and Discussion	142
Limitations	151
Clinical Implications	154
Future Research	158
Personal Post-Script	159
<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>161</b>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	
Appendix A: Guiding Interview Questions	170
Appendix B: Client Informed Consent	172
Appendix C: Therapist Informed Consent	175
<b>VITA</b>	<b>176</b>