The Autonomic Ladder





VENTRAL VAGAL

Neuroception of safety

Social, engaged, connected



SYMPATHETIC

Neuroception of danger

Mobilized, action taking, fight and flight



DORSAL VAGAL

Neuroception of life-threat

Immobilized, shut down, collapsed



Autonomic Mapping Activity



VENTRAL VAGAL

Safe, connected

I am...

The world is...

SYMPATHETIC

Mobilized, fight or flight

I am...

The world is...

DORSAL VAGAL

Immobilized, collapsed

I am...

The world is...

Notice and Name Skill

- Notice where you are on the autonomic map
- Name the state
- 3 Turn toward your experience
- 4 Bring curiosity
- 5 Listen for a moment to the story of your state