Commentary

Janet Ellis
North Texas State University

These papers by Sulzer-Azaroff and Armstrong point out the importance of tenacious behavior, herein defined as not only hanging in, per se, but also persistently coming up with alternative means or alternative routes to reach a goal. Certainly interpersonal control has played an important role in their successes, but another shared ability warrants mention also. Both of these women apparently are able to analyze the environments in which they find themselves and abstract good rules. Glenn (1986) defined “good rules” as those that have proved useful in controlling effective behavior. Rule-generation and abstraction appear to be critically important features of both their repertoires, as well they may be for most successful persons. Both credit effective role models (males and females) for at least part of their repertoires.

Armstrong has defined eating disorders as avoidance responses and reported that her bulimic clients appear to lack the skills necessary for dealing appropriately with events in their world. Perhaps her clients would best heed Sulzer-Azaroff’s rules: rehearse problem-solving skills when your efforts are not reinforced and congratulate yourself when you successfully reject some of the destructive “I should” $S^D$s that victimize women in our culture.

Hopefully, these articles have provided $S^D$s for behaviors that will produce technological reinforcers for women who learn to emit them in appropriate environments. What more can we ask of the first articles in what we want to be a continuing dialogue supplying feedback and $S^D$s for all our readers.

References