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A graphic model depicting the six stages of a relationship . . . using *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World* as an example.

**Stage 1: CONTACT**

In this first stage of a relationship, individuals become aware of one another (Devito, 1993). They will engage in perceptual contact (one person notices another without being noticed in return, or both individuals become mutually aware of each other) and interactional contact (interacting with one another, but usually only briefly). During contact, people will make an initial assessment of the other person so that they may determine how to interact with them (Devito, 1993).

**Stage 2: INVOLVEMENT**

In this stage, the relationship involves more interaction, where a friendship or bond is formed (Devito, 1993). Persons who are forming a relationship at this stage look to mutuality (connection and feelings) and testing (attempts to move forward with the relationship) to determine the depth of the relationship (Devito, 1993).
**Stage 3: INTIMACY**

At this stage, relationships have reached a level of deep commitment (Devito, 1993). People in a relationship should experience one or all of the following: personal commitment (a bond felt by both people that they are mutually willing to support the relationship), interpersonal commitment (sharing feelings felt in the personal commitment stage explicitly with one another), social bonding (sharing feelings for one another with others), and anxiety (concern that the relationship could fall apart, despite one’s own commitment) (Devito, 1993).

**Stage 4: DETERIORATION**

At this stage, relationships may hit bumps in the road that test the strength of relationship. Types of deterioration may include relational damage (minor issues to major problems) and weakening bonds (the relationship becomes routine; other matters interfere) (Devito, 1993).

**Stage 5: REPAIR**
People at this stage may wish for the relationship to continue, so they work to keep the relationship in place (Devito, 1993). Relationships might require intrapersonal repair (individuals in the relationship work on themselves to help the relationship) or interpersonal repair (individuals work together to fix issues within the relationship) (Devito, 1993).

**Stage 6: DISSOLUTION**

At this stage, individuals in the relationship may decide to dissolve the relationship completely or return to a less committed stage (Devito, 1993). Some examples of dissolution include intrapersonal separation (both people decide to mentally detach from the other), interpersonal separation (both individuals decide to physically detach from each other), and social separation (people formerly in a relationship express to others that they have mentally and physically detached from the relationship) (Devito, 1993).