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Systems Thinking Project Milestone 6-1 Definitions

Systems thinking can be defined as recognizing individual components of a system and understanding the relationships between them. With in systems thinking there are some common terms that appear. One term is collection. A collection is simply data that can be grouped by a similar characteristic. You may also hear the term Feedback loop. A feedback loop could be as simple as a customer leaving a review. When a customer receives an order from a seller and then leaves a review, that would be the feedback part of the loop. Another term is Causal loop. At its simplest terms it is essentially cause and effect. As an example, a small business that has low demand can make high quality products. As the popularity grows and demand increases, it forces the business to reduce quality to maintain the demand. The final term is Stock and flow. A stock and flow diagram would be like a casual loop but provide more detail. Using my previous example for casual loop, a stock and flow diagram would portray how increasing demand would force quality to drop. It may display employee workload increasing thus deteriorating quality.