

Causal Connection Circles and Feedback Loops

Part 1


Look for elements that directly cause a change in other elements. Use the sentence frame below to help you decide if the change is in the same or opposite direction. Here's how to record the relationships:

Example: If there are more _____, there will be more _____.
If there are fewer _____, there will be fewer _____.

XXXXXX → YYYYYY S = change in the same direction

S

If there are more _____, there will be fewer _____.
If there are fewer _____, there will be more _____.

AAAAAA BBBBBB O= change in the opposite direction
O

List all the causal connections you find between the elements in the system on your worksheet.

Part 2

Lay the elements on a large sheet of paper in a circle. Draw arrows to show the causal connections you found. Use one color for all the causal connections that you marked S for change in the same direction. Use another color for all the causal connections you marked O for change in the opposite direction. Pay attention to the direction of the arrows. You might want to draw first in pencil to be sure and then go over your lines with markers.

