

PICTURING A COMPLEX SYSTEM: CREATING YOUR SYSTEM DIAGRAM

Draw a system diagram that represents the system to the best of your abilities in the short period of time allowed. Label the diagram using systems vocabulary, and show connections, etc., between components of the system.

- You will work in a group of 3–5 on this assignment.
- Each group will be given a piece of poster paper or a large Post-it note and markers. You will generate a large-scale drawing of a complex system assigned by your instructor.
- The groups will all diagram the same system, and your diagrams will not be identical.
- The amount of time allotted to this task is short—you cannot include everything in your diagram, so you need to think about what is essential.

Once your group has drawn its diagram, you will do a brief “gallery walk,” during which you will look at some or all of the diagrams made by your classmates. This will give you a chance to:

- Look at other groups’ representation of the system.
- Identify components of the system that are critical to describe the system, but which you did not include in your diagram.

Finally, you will reconvene with your group at your diagram and add to it anything that you saw in other groups’ models that they think is critical to include, but which you had missed (if possible, add this new information using a different color, or otherwise indicate these revisions to your model with a symbol).

To submit your model for future use, take a picture of your diagram before leaving class and save it. Your instructor will collect and keep the posters. If feasible, your instructor will ask you to upload the photographs to an online space (course management system, etc.) so that there is a permanent record of them.