



BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

What is systems thinking?

Youth Ambassadors Session
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Welcome and Icebreaker:

In the chat:

Please identify yourself - your name, your school, and whether you are a Youth Ambassador, School Liaison, or partner.

This is how we will track participants attendance. Thanks

Icebreaker:

If you had to fix a flat tire on a bike and/or car what is the first thing you do?



Welcome to
the **TEAM**

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What are we
doing and
where are we
going?

As Youth Ambassador and student leaders in your school, you will work be completing an impact project which will be designed to improve a complex problem in your school.

To do this, you'll need to first understand your school as a system, and how different people experience that system. That information will help you create an idea to solve a problem or challenge in your school that will positively impact your school.

Today's Goals

By the end of today, you'll:

- Understand how our lives are shaped by “systems”
- Use a systems map to more clearly understand a problem

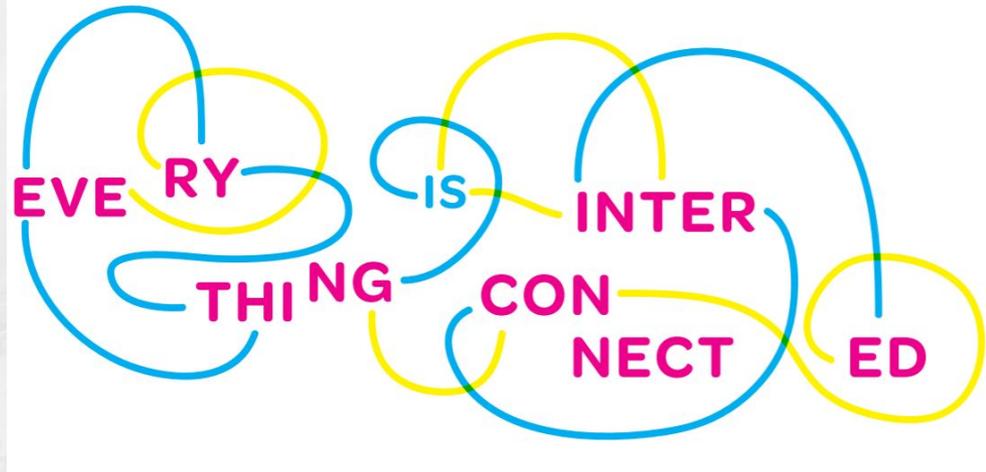


What is systems thinking?



What is systems thinking?

- Systems thinking means understanding a **system** by looking at **links and interactions** between different parts of the **whole system**.
- With this type of thinking, we can learn to make positive changes in systems.



What is a system?



**This is a heap.
Not a system.**

Nothing changes when
a part is taken away or added
to this heap.



This is a system.

Change definitely happens
if you add or take away
a part of this system.

Parachuting Cats



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You can use systems thinking to better understand and begin to solve a problem.

Observe
the system.



Define the
Problem.



Zoom in to
define the
parts.



See
relationships.

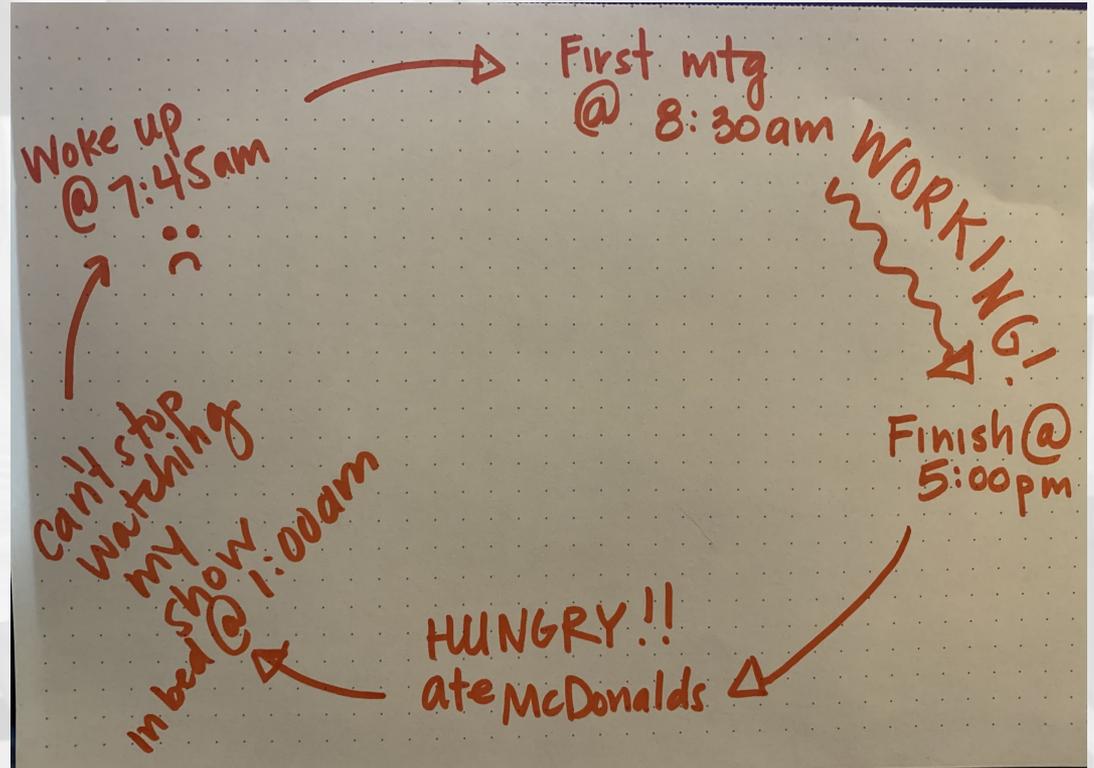


Identify
places to
try a fix.
Change the
system.

Big GOAL: Get healthy in the New Year!

Christina has a big goal for her New Year.

But, how is this big goal playing out in in the system of her life?



So how do we use systems thinking to solve problems?

- What was the problem?
- What were some parts of the system that could create the problem?
- What are some possible ways to fix it?





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Whole Group Share Out

- What piece of this system might we focus our energies on?
- What might we try to fix in this part of the system?



Breakout Groups

In your groups:

1) Identify a problem - focus on in your school

Some Ideas: *bullying, school lunch, student engagement in class, access to resource classes or electives, access to a wide variety of after school activities*

2) List the pieces/parts

3) Look for the relationships between the different parts of the system.

Breakout Groups



Armistead Garden_Activity_Jan13



Share



Set background

Clear frame

Step 1: State Your Problem

List your
problem
here

Step 3: See relationships. Show
the connections you see between
pieces/parts of the system

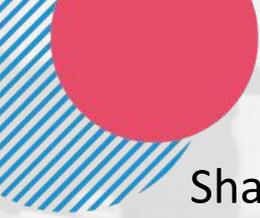
You DRAW arrows, or use the
arrow shape

Step 2: Zoom in to see the
pieces. List the pieces/parts
of the system

1 sticky
note for
each
piece/part

jot down on a sticky note and
place anywhere on your
Jamboard page





Homework

Share your Jamboard with your Principal or Assistant Principal to learn more about their system from their vantage point. Ask them the following questions and document their answers:

- Are there any other parts of this system that aren't captured in this diagram?
 - What connections/links do you see between these parts of the system?
 - What are some possible improvements/fixes that could be tested?
- **Students should choose who leads and who takes notes during interview.**
 - **Students should 1) upload their notes to the google folder by Friday January 22, 2021. Mr. Rashad will send the link in his follow up email.**



Using our steps....

1. **Observe.** *What is the system this skit is about? What do you initially observe about it?*
2. **Identify the Problem.** *What is the problem?*
3. **Zoom in to see the pieces.** *What are some pieces or parts of the system?*
4. **See relationships.** *How do the pieces you mentioned connect to each other, or the system?*

- Homework to talk to principal about problems maybe
 - Doubly supportive bc it will put this on the radar of school leaders
 - Also necessitates some backup for the student to share with principals as a to do
 - Make sure that liasons are supported for this as well.
 - Establishes role of liasons to support this work.
 - Focus is that students have a more global understanding of challenges in the building

How'd we do?

I Like, I Wish, I Wonder, I Think...

I LIKE

What stood out to you
the most today?

Use sticky notes
to document
your response
for each column

I WISH

What would you change
for next time?

I WONDER

What questions do you
still have about what
you learned today?

I THINK...

Finish the sentence:
"I think a systems mindset is
important because..."

