Exercise 2: A System Archetype

Pick one of these two options:

I. Find a public policy problem that relates one of Senge’s systems archetypes, either in fact or in people’s perceptions.

OR

II. Pick some aspect of your term project problem for this Archetypes exercise.

Sketch the generic archetype and then a version of the same diagram made specific to the problem you have selected. You may have to add two or three elements to the diagram for clarity, but your goal is to produce a problem-specific diagram that vividly has the same structure as the generic archetype.

Then write a brief statement to accompany your diagrams which includes
  • a statement of the public policy problem,
  • a description of how the archetype applies,
  • any structure/behavior insights the archetype surfaces in the problem,
  • and (only if appropriate) any thoughts you have about how the archetype in this instance might oversimplify and lead to superficial or even false understandings.