How to draw a kinship diagram

Basics

Use a circle for a female. Use a triangle for a male

Use a square for a person of undetermined gender.

If a person is dead, put an X through the circle or triangle:

Marriage and cohabitation

An equal sign between a male and female indicates a marriage:

Use an "almost equal" for a cohabiting couple that is not married:

Use a "similar" sign for a couple who are parents but not a cohabiting or married couple:

You can use this for homosexual couples as well.

If the marriage ended in divorce, use an "unequal" sign:

A person with two spouses can be draw thus; the first one on the left:

If there are a lot of marriages for one person, instead of an equal sign you can draw a line connecting them below the circle and triangle.

Descent:

A solid line from the equal sign (or bar below) indicates biological descent:

You can do the same for adoptive descent with a dotted line:

If you don’t know who the parents were, you can indicate common descent between brothers or sisters without putting the parents in if you draw a bar connecting them above the triangles and circles.

An example:

If there are relationships that aren’t covered here, just invent some sort of a sign and indicate on your paper how you are using it.