



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: $\Delta = O$

Use an "almost equal" for a cohabiting couple that is not married: $\Delta \approx O$

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 drawn thus; the first one on the left:

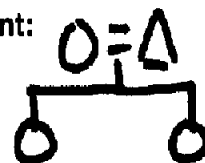


If there are a lot of marriages for one person, instead of an equal sign you can draw a line connecting them below the circle and triangle.

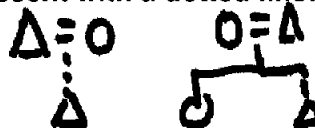


Descent:

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



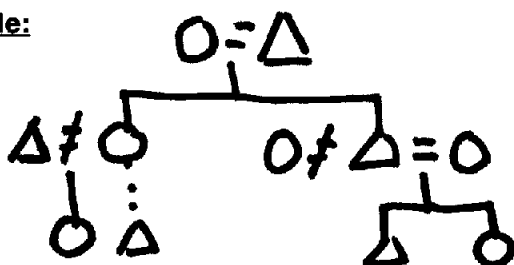
You can do the same thing for adoptive descent with a dotted line:



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.