



Other examples of research analogies

In this resource you will find three examples of analogies that you could use for your own research story flavour.

Take a read. Do any of them resonate with you?

If not, do they spark something else for you? Have you come up with a different idea?

Amazon factory

Imagine an Amazon factory- lots of different machines and processes. There are boxes whizzing all over the place- above your head, to your left, to your right. All of these are very tightly controlled processes.

Imagine if, just for one second, you lost power....what chaos and carnage would come from it? Boxes would fly around everywhere, there would be a build up of boxes.

You could use this as analogy for your research if it involves lots of highly controlled processes and pathways that need to be constantly monitored. If one small part slips out of line, the whole factory would fall apart. Maybe your research is about one pathway that commonly goes wrong, or about making another pathway more efficient/streamlined.



Maryland GovPics, Larry Hogan tours Amazon warehouse in Maryland (36906693900), CC BY 2.0

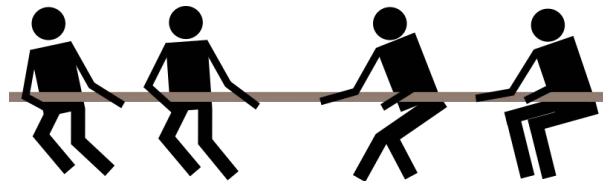


Tug of war

This is a game where two teams line up against each other on a piece of rope. The aim of the game is for each team to pull the rope towards their own team on their own side of the field. The winner is the one which pulls the most amount of rope onto their half of the field.

Imagine, someone in one team has an injury or is off sick for the day. This immediately puts their whole team at a disadvantage, and the whole game would be out of balance.

You could use this as an analogy for your research if you need to talk about things being in balance, or equilibrium. If one side is stronger, then automatically things will tip one way, or the other and create instability. Perhaps your research is about brining things back into stability.



Targeting the heart not the head

The mythical creature, the Hydra, immediately makes me think of Hercules- have you seen the Disney movie?

In one part of the film the main character, Hercules, is up against a monster with multiple heads. After lots of struggle Hercules eventually manages to cut the three heads off...after moments of celebration to his horror for every one head he cut off three more grow back.

Soon Hercules realises that he needs to target the heart and not the head of the monster.



This could be used as an analogy for your research if it is about targeting something at the heart of your research question. Perhaps research so far has looked into the periphery, but with limited success. You want to focus on the heart to stop any heads from growing back.



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