

How to draw your Circle of Competence Map

What it is

A map of what you genuinely understand from real experience, so you can see where your expertise ends and guessing begins.

Warren Buffett's rule: it's not how big your circle of competence is, it's how honestly you know its edges.

When to use it

Anytime you want an honest picture of what you actually know well, not tied to one specific decision.

Steps

1. **Inside the circle: what you know well.** Write the specific skills or areas you've built real, hands-on experience in.
2. **Outside it: what you only think you know.** Write the adjacent stuff you have opinions about but haven't actually done.

Common mistake

Counting 'I've read a few articles about it' as real expertise.

Pairs with

Circle of Competence Decision Check and First Principles Thinking.

Example: a marketing manager's map

Date: Wed, May 14

What I actually know



What's outside it, that I only think I know

Building the website myself

Picking our accounting software

Negotiating the office lease

Hiring engineers

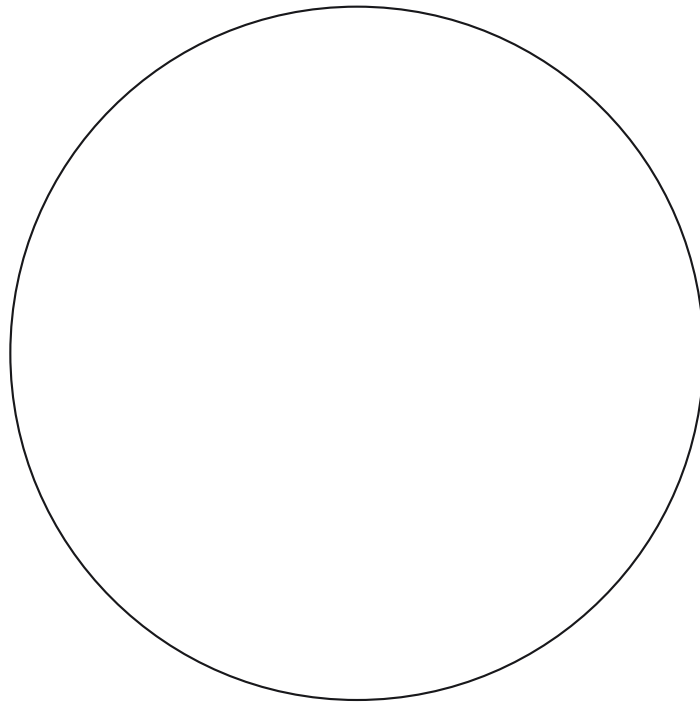
Setting up the sales pipeline

Choosing a health insurance plan

Circle of Competence Map

Date: _____

What I actually know



What's outside it, that I only think I know

[illegible]