

# Classifying a Scenario Exercise

## Using the Scenario Cartwheel\*

Before a scenario exercise gets underway, it is important that all participants agree on the nature of the study. There are many ways to structure a scenario exercise, and if different participants have in mind a different structure, then they can end up talking at cross-purposes without realizing it. This activity uses the idea of a “scenario cartwheel” as a graphical organizer for classifying scenarios.

This activity should be carried out early in a scenario exercise. The result is a broad classification of the exercise, which serves as a record of decisions made by the participants. The Scenario Cartwheel diagram should stay up over the course of a workshop as a reminder to participants. It may be necessary to revisit the initial decision as the workshop progresses.

## The Activity

The full group discusses the classification of the scenario in three stages. The activity results in a flag (a sticky note) being placed in one of the “boxes” on the outer ring of the Scenario Cartwheel diagram (see Illustration 1).

## Materials

- A large sheet of paper (e.g., flip-chart paper) with the Scenario Cartwheel drawn or printed on it.
- A copy of the Scenario Cartwheel for all participants.
- A sticky note.

## Procedure

Discuss the classification of the scenario, starting at the center of the cartwheel, and moving outward. (Although if participants want to discuss the classification in a different order, that is OK.)

1. Start at the center: Is the main goal exploration or decision support?
2. Go to the next ring: Will analysis involve a formal procedure (qualitative or quantitative model, Delphi, other formal procedure), or will it be more “intuitive”?

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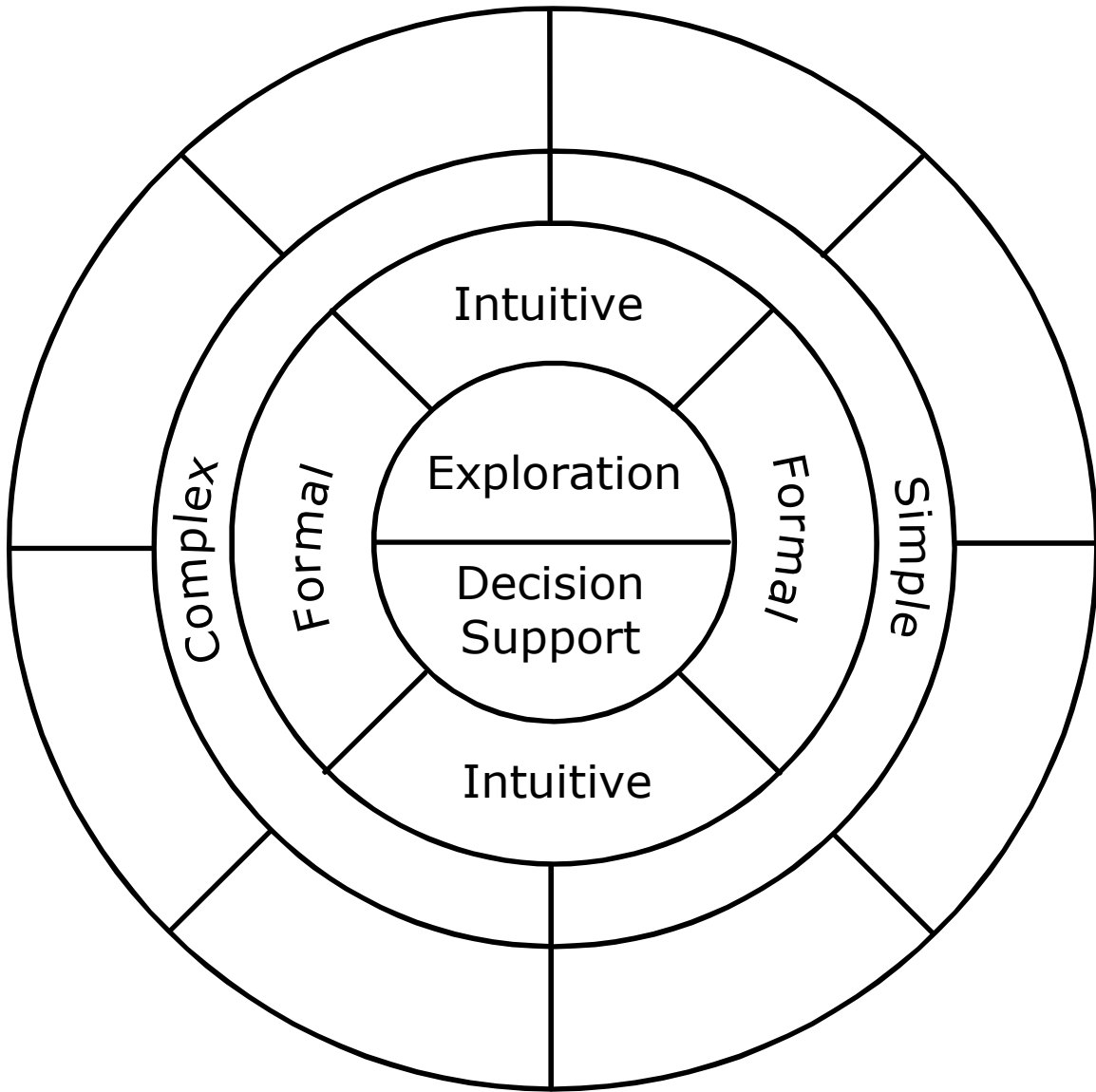
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3. Go to the final ring: Will the analysis be complex (e.g., involving several subanalyses, different groups, etc.) or simple (e.g., conducted entirely within a few sessions)?
4. Place the sticky note in the appropriate box on the edge of the diagram.
5. Ask participants to label their own copies of the diagram.

### ***Wrap-Up***

Leave the Scenario Cartwheel diagram up during the workshop, and return to it periodically as necessary.

# Scenario Cartwheel



*From:* van Notten, Phillip W.F., Jan Rotmans, Marjolein B.A. van Asselt, Dale S. Rothman. "An updated scenario typology," *Futures* 35, pp. 423-443. 2003.

*Illustration 1. The Scenario Cartwheel*