

## Working with Mental Models

1. Please read the pages on the Ladder of Inference from the Fifth Discipline Handbook (also found here: [https://www.solonline.org/?page=tool\\_ladder\\_of\\_infer](https://www.solonline.org/?page=tool_ladder_of_infer))
2. Do the exercise on the handout on the Iceberg to share with others and discuss. (also found here: <https://nwei.org/resources/iceberg/>)

That is...

### **GIVE IT A TRY!**

Select a recent event that strikes you as urgent, important or interesting. Some examples include a recent hurricane, drought, or winter storm; a controversial Supreme Court decision or a high profile court case; a local policy change or contentious issue; recent military action between nations; or an issue you've personally encountered in the last few weeks. Write the event (what is observable about the event) at the top of the blank iceberg below and work your way down through the patterns, underlying systems and mental models, adding as many as you can think of. It can also be useful to move up and down between levels as you think more about the event.

### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER AFTER TRYING OUT THE ICEBERG MODEL**

1. Does the iceberg model help broaden your perspective? If so, how might this new perspective be helpful?
2. Consider the concept of entry, or “leverage” points. These are points at which to intervene in a system that could lead to systemic transformation. Does the exercise show you any new entry points at which you are inspired to intervene?
3. What issues that have frustrated you might be interesting to analyze with the Iceberg Model?

- See more at: <https://nwei.org/resources/iceberg/#shash.R2ogFjwc.dpuf>