

# Rivalry

**Definition:** \*Rivalry\* refers to a **competitive relationship between individuals, groups, or institutions** who seek to outperform or surpass each other in a shared domain of interest, such as status, recognition, influence, or achievement.

## Characteristics

- Involves **comparison**, **competition**, and often **conflict**.
- Can be **constructive** (driving innovation and excellence) or **destructive** (breeding hostility, **sabotage**, or unethical behavior).
- Often rooted in perceived **scarcity of rewards** (e.g., leadership roles, funding, prestige).
- May be **personal**, **institutional**, **academic**, or **professional**.

## Types

- **Academic rivalry:** Between researchers, departments, or universities competing for publications, grants, or rankings.
- **Professional rivalry:** Among colleagues or specialists within the same field.
- **Institutional rivalry:** Between hospitals, research centers, or medical schools.
- **Historical rivalry:** Sustained over time, sometimes becoming symbolic or cultural.

## Related Concepts

- Competition
- Ambition
- Ego
- Envy
- Conflict

## Application Example

- Rivalry between neurosurgical units can stimulate advancements in patient care and research, but if left unchecked, may erode collaboration, transparency, and shared learning.

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