

FIGURE 15.12 Four Potential Explanations for a Significant Correlation

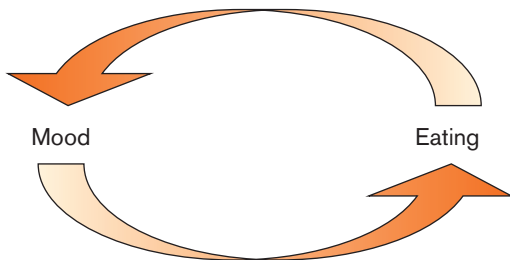
1. Changes in mood cause changes in eating:



2. Changes in eating cause changes in mood (reverse causality):



3. The two variables work together (systematically) to cause an effect:



4. Changes in both factors are caused by a third confound variable:



Four potential explanations for a significant correlation. Because factors are measured, but not manipulated, using the correlational method, any one of these possibilities could explain a significant correlation.