The following chart shows an approach for identifying any interval. A similar approach can be used when you need to write a particular interval above or below a given note: first, add a note above or below the given note at the correct distance; then follow steps 2 through 4 of this chart to identify it. Then, if necessary, alter the note you added with an accidental to create the interval called for.

**STEP 1:** Determine the distance of the interval by counting lines and spaces.

**STEP 2:** Cover up all accidentals.

**STEP 3:** Determine the inflection of the interval in front of you (the one without accidentals!) as follows:

- **If it is a unison or octave:**
  - The interval shown is a perfect unison or perfect octave.
  - Really. It just is.

- **If it is a fourth or fifth:**
  - If the interval uses the notes F and B, it is either an augmented fourth or a diminished fifth.
  - Otherwise, the interval is perfect.

- **If it is a second, third, sixth or seventh:**
  - If the top note is in the major key of the bottom note, the interval is major.
  - If the bottom note is in the major key of the top note, the interval is minor.

**STEP 4:** Add the original accidentals back, one at a time, and track how the interval changes inflection.

Remember: Accidentals can never affect the distance of an interval... all they can ever do is change the inflection! This method may seem complicated at first, but it becomes easier and faster with practice... and it gives you the correct answer every time!