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Futures Learning Tool

Living in 2050: Nine Trips to the Future and Back



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I am pleased to share a futures learning tool that we are using at Anne Arundel Community College in anticipation that it may be useful at other colleges and universities. The objectives of the methodology are as follows:

- To push learners time horizons well beyond the present.
- To encourage creative thinking
- To enhance synergistic thinking among emerging trends
- To provide a "risk free" time zone for innovation

Instructions to educators:

To start the process, two actions are needed. First, one or more discussion topics must be provided to the participants. In addition, participants need a blog capability, internal discussion board, or other mechanism for response and constructive commentary. The tool can also be used to develop class assignments.

For participating AACC students, we have provided the forum **Living in 2050 – Daily Post**. At other colleges and universities, you can develop or identify your own topics of interest and adapt the tool for local needs. As a starting point, the "Points for the Classroom" appended to many **FUTUREtakes** articles may be useful. Back issues and the special educational reprint volume can be downloaded from www.futuretakes.org.

Instructions to students and other participants (adapt to your local structure and needs):

You are asked to travel to 2050 and join the rest of your learning colleagues to your experience of life in 2050 – several times! Here’s the situation and what you need to do –

By traveling faster than the speed of light and slipping through a wormhole (all possible according to physicists – at least the wormhole) you are able to travel between today and 2050, visit and return. You are able to do this such that you remain the same chronological age that you are now (if you’re 25 now, you’re 25 in 2050; if 18 now, you’re 18 in 2050). Your goal is to “**think and act like you are there,**” with all the social changes that you are coming to expect through your experience, reading, innovating and exploring.” Put yourself in 2050! Then come back...

Enter the discussion. (For AACC students, the forum is entitled **Living in 2050 - Daily Post** and involves nine trips to 2050 and back.)

The first time (only the first time): When you enter the discussion board, blog, etc., post **YOUR OWN** unique response to the opening item.

For your 2nd time. Select the response of any other student or other participant (not yourself) and “continue the story” by adding to living in 2050. Your addition should include the following criteria:

- ☞ It is highly recommended that you NOT do these all at once. One at a time over time.
- ☞ Read and review the emerging thread (all entries before). Enjoy and be challenged by the future reality that you’re creating.
- ☞ Provide a courteous comment to and about the person and that person’s post (an introduction and a comment for example).
- ☞ Continue the story by adding new things that would happen in 2050. They should be different than the one listed by the person’s response that you’ve selected. These ideas should reflect new things you’ve learned in the current module and modules completed before to that point. In the course.
- ☞ Your remarks should attempt synergy. That is, you should combine your thoughts with other person’s thoughts to create some new ideas of “things that are happening in 2050.” Be creative.
- ☞ Your remarks should be in complete sentences and should be at least one paragraph.
- ☞ Return to the present to complete another course module, lesson, or assignment!

For your 3rd time. Select the response of another participant (different than the one that you chose for the 2nd time) and “continue the story” by adding to living in 2050. Your addition should adhere to all the criteria listed above.

Continue the process until you complete your nine trips.