



Implications of Change

Teach the Future

**This is a partial preview.
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Background

We often think about a change in the future. But it's not just one change because the future is all interconnected. Each change has impacts on other things, and those impacts have impacts of their own, and on and on. The impact of change is like ripples in a pond—they keep moving outward. This lesson is about a tool called a Futures Wheel that we use to understanding the many impacts of change.

A Futures Wheel is basically a mind map applied to the future. You put a current or future change in the center and then branch out the implications of that change to four or five levels sometimes. *There are instructions below.*

Futures wheels are brainstorming tools so the rules of brainstorming discourage or even prohibit analysis or evaluation. Throw the thing up there. The result, however, is that most of the implications are either already well-known or they are suspect. So the final step is to pick the best take-aways from the exercise.

Objectives

Learn to use a Futures Wheel to identify the impacts of change.

Preparation

1. Show one or two of the DirectTV ads --
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpwlh1yl054>
 1. What is a story like that in your own life, one that has at least three steps?
 2. Which story had the most steps?
 3. What is an implication? A consequence? An outcome? A result? Is there a difference between them?
4. More videos –
 1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AxO5jHAXhOY>
 2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z01sQpuBe4s>
 3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r2iO2J27R28>
2. Read about the [Futures Wheel](#).
3. Read some simple [instructions](#) for doing a Futures Wheel.
4. Read about Futures Wheels in the [Facilitator's Guidebook](#) from the Foundation for Our Future, pp 33-36. *Also some excellent other exercises in the book and a great video of a high school workshop on the future.*
5. Review some examples of Futures Wheels – [An anti-aging pill](#), Larger [coastal populations](#), More [online learning](#).

Activities

1. Do a Futures Wheels for each of the following changes –
 1. A large increase in the use of solar energy
 2. The release of a bio-weapon in Washington DC
 3. Increasing inequality in the U.S.

You may use this [template](#) or download one of these [tools](#) or make up one on your own using PowerPoint or any other graphics tool.

2. Identify the most surprising or interesting implications from each wheel.