

Voices from the Future

Creating the Scene in 2018

A Listening Guide and Workbook
for Creating Personal Forecast Stories

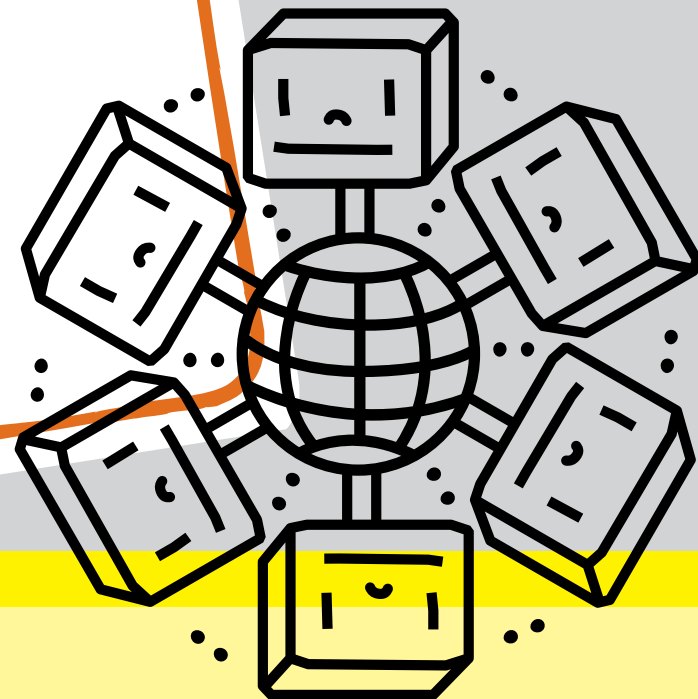


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Voices From the Future:

creating your personal story of 2018

introduction

Think about where you were 10 years ago, you probably imagined you'd be in high school, getting your driver's license, starting college, writing papers, beginning your career, or even ending it. But did you imagine that you'd use Google to research those papers, or use Google Maps to get places in that car? Did you imagine that you'd MySpace and Facebook your friends and colleagues? Or that you'd play video games with people from Germany, Korea, and South Africa? Did you imagine that you would have to worry about climate change or that airport security would be such an issue?

You are about to hear some voices from the future that will help set the scene for your life in 2018. These voices describe drivers of change—the ways in which the background of everyday life in 2018 may be different from today.

The world these voices describe will shape how you think about yourself, your life options, your family, your day-to-day considerations. What new possibilities will open up? What current ways of thinking and acting might be considered obsolete or old fashioned? What new concerns or hopes will you have? Answers to these questions are the subjects of your personal stories from 2018!

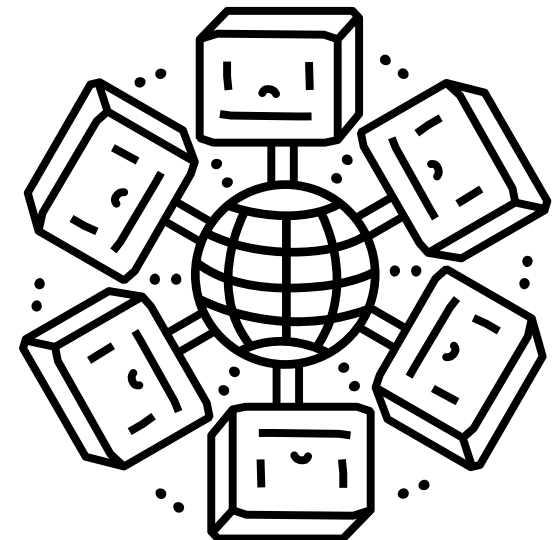
how to use this booklet

This booklet is a guide to help you think about the future as you listen to the brief videos "Voices from the Future." The sections of this booklet are organized around drivers of change. Each driver will walk you through exercises that will help you create a personal story from your life in 2018. This story can be turned into a movie using applications like iMovie or any other form of digital media.

drivers of change

The drivers of change set the scene for you to think about your own life in 2018. In the pages that follow, there is a brief glossary of terms to help describe the main ideas of each driver of change. Take notes as you listen, writing down key phrases, images, ideas that come to your mind. What did you find interesting about the story? What concerns you? How would you explain this driver of change to someone else?

After each driver of change, there is a set of questions to help you think about what your life might be like in this future setting.



Deep Diversity: from finding difference to finding common ground

Key terms

identity

The unique combination of characteristics that define you— who you are, what groups you're part of, what you do, etc.

diversity

A wide mix of identity characteristics, some of which are shared, some of which are different.

affinity

Connection to other people through shared characteristics, shared components of identity. These could include shared interests, shared geography, shared DNA patterns, shared life conditions, shared experience, etc.

Listening exercise

As you listen to the story of deep diversity, think about the following:

- What words, images, or examples in the story capture your attention? Why?
- What is your favorite part of the story? Why?

Questions to consider:

1. How are you deeply diverse?
2. What are the important characteristics that would shape your identity in 2018?
3. What kinds of groups/issues/experiences might be important to you in 2018?
4. What kind of common ground would you look for in 2018?
5. What new concerns or hopes would you have?

Volatile Communities: from stability to resilience

Key terms

infrastructure

The underlying physical and social framework that supports the day-to-day life in a community—how you get your water, what happens to trash, the roads and bridges, etc.

resilient

A system—a community, an organization or institution, a group of people—that can flexibly adapt to change.

brittle

When a system easily breaks due to change.

participatory and transparent

When many people work together and their actions and can be seen by everyone.

Listening exercise

As you listen to the story of volatile communities, think about the following:

- What words, images, or examples in the story capture your attention? Why?
- What is your favorite part of the story? Why?

Questions to consider:

1. Do you live in a resilient or brittle community? Describe it.
2. What things will be scarce in 2018 and how do you think scarcity will affect your life? Your community?
3. What could make your community more social? What could be more transparent?
4. What parts of your city/community don't work well? Why?

Creating Your Story of 2018: story template, prompts, images

WRITING YOUR STORY

- You are about to write a story about your life in 2018. Imagine your story as a scene in a movie, and you are in this scene. This scene describes a particular moment. What is happening? Who is there? What is the scene about?
- Think about your story in terms of four basic paragraphs. This will help you develop your description of the setting, the dialog that takes place among people in the scene, the action, and the clues that tell us that this is a scene from 2018.

Use the questions on the next few pages to help you develop an outline of a story between 250-350 words (1-1 1/2 pages).

Getting Started: Finding a moment in your life in 2018

Think about your own life in 2018:

- How old will you be?
- What will you be doing? Will you be in school, working, traveling? What are your hobbies?
- What kinds of responsibilities will you have?
- Who will be the important people in your life?
- What kinds of people will you see on a day to day basis?
- Where will you live? How will you spend time with your friends, family, co-workers, community?
- What might be some concerns, hopes, or challenges in your life 10 years from now?

Use these questions to write a story about a moment in your life in 2018. You need to include in your story at least two drivers of change that reflects the world of 2018. If you want to see some examples, go to the Personal Stories from 2018 page at www.kwfdn.org/voices.

Paragraph 1: Setting the scene

What is the descriptive setting that opens up your story? Where are you? Who are you with? What do we see, hear, smell? What is going on? Be descriptive!

Paragraph 2: Establishing Context

How do we know this story takes place in 2018? How do the drivers of change appear in the story? Do the drivers create challenges, make certain things possible that weren't before? Do they bring up certain issues that you have to deal with that weren't in your life before?

Paragraph 3: Tension, Crisis, Decisive Moment

What creates tension or action in your story? Is there a moment of crisis, a point where a decision is made that changes things?

Paragraph 4: Summation, Reversal

What happens? How does the tension get resolved? Or does it? Is there a twist in what we think will happen? What is the lesson?

Write your complete draft on your story

Using this outline, write your complete story, using dialog and first person voice. Read it out loud to a friend, parent, or teacher to refine the focus and make the scene clear.

Creating Your Story of 2018: story template, prompts, images

IMAGES FOR YOUR STORY

What kinds of pictures or images would help tell your story? Use the Web to search for imagery (such as www.flickr select advance search and use only creative commons licensed photos), or take your own pictures with a digital camera.

These images can be exact depictions of what is going on in your story (eg. Your story describes you standing in line at a movie theater and we see a picture of people in line at a movie theater) or they can be more suggestive or implicit (eg. Your story describes you and your boss in an argument and you show a picture of dark storm clouds).

Make a list of images that you want for your story to help you search for them or create them yourself.

MAKING YOUR STORY A MOVIE

You've created the key pieces for making a digital story or movie—an interesting story and compelling images.

There are many applications for making your story a movie. An easy place to start is iMovie (www.apple.com/ilife/imovie).

Record your voice reading your story as a digital file to make the sound track. Layout your images to match the description, action, and dialog in your story. Then use iMovie to make transitions and refine your movie. Or use key parts of your story and the images to make a digital comic with ComicLife (<http://plasq.com/>).

To learn more about digital story making and story writing visit the Center for Digital Storytelling at www.storycenter.org.

