

**A huge THANK YOU to members of SPLAT
from across Idaho libraries!**

Your enthusiasm and curiosity for
Futures Thinking are part of
the reason this zine exists.

Thank you for being open to
joining us on the journey!



SPECIAL PROJECTS
LIBRARY ACTION TEAM

libraries.idaho.gov/splat

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How Do I Navigate Futures?



What is Futures Thinking?

Futures Thinking isn't about predicting one future. It is a way of reframing how we think about the future. By using divergent thinking, or seeking many possible answers and acknowledging uncertainty, you can consider all the possible, plausible, probable, and preferable futures.

Why should I use Futures Thinking?

Futures Thinking argues that there is a range of possible futures and the future can be actively shaped by the choices we make today. Futures thinking seeks to answer the question of "What *could* happen?" rather than "What *will* happen?" This reframing can lead to a more hopeful view of the future, because a future that has not yet been written, is a future you can help shape.

**This zine was inspired by the
"Futures Thinking Playbook"**

**[https://issuu.com/wtforesight/docs/
futuresthinkingplaybook-final](https://issuu.com/wtforesight/docs/futuresthinkingplaybook-final)**

**Images by Julie Rose West
Navigator and Champion activities
by Katie Bishop King
from "Futures Thinking Playbook"
reused with permission from Dr. Peter Bishop**

Thankfully, I had my _____
(imagined use or name for object #1)

to help me along the way. My first step was to talk to
_____ and persuade them to
(person with influence over your future)

(action you will ask them to take)

Then, I had to travel to _____ and
(location)

(action step)

I had no idea I would run into _____
(obstacle)

And have to _____
(imagined use / name for object #2)

_____ to finish my journey.

In the end, I was able to _____
(final action step!)

THE END ... is also the beginning!

A champion for the future!

Shaping the future requires knowledge, integrity, courage, and a sense of humor. Imagine you have reached a goal in the future and are looking back at the path you took.

Complete the following story using what you've learned about the future, and your sense of humor. Create a hero's journey!

You will need a pile of readily available objects to spark imaginative thinking, enough for everyone to choose two.

I am a champion for the future! My name is _____

and I am here to take a stand. Today, it is the year _____,

and we have achieved _____
(description of your preferred future)

_____.

It wasn't easy! I had to stand up for _____

_____.

(something you would take a stand for)

I faced many obstacles such as _____

_____.

Circle which of these two statements you agree with the most:

Option A: What will happen in the future is **mostly set** and will follow the **path we are already on**.

Option B: The future holds **many possibilities** and is **not yet determined**.

Circle which of these two statements you agree with the most:

Option C: We each have **limited individual influence** over what the future will be.

Option D: We each have a **great deal of individual influence** over how the future will be.

Circle your answer:

AB AC BC BD

Backcasting – Past Scenario

Think about what a school or library looked like 10 years ago. Choose to focus on the physical space, the staff, or the people using the space. Write down 1-2 ideas to focus on.

Focus: _____

What does it look like today?

Current state: _____

What changed? _____



BD–The Mapmaker

Mapmakers have the entire ocean in front of them and make decisions that will determine where the ship ends up. People with this future personality type believe that the future is wide open with possibilities, and that our decisions and actions determine how the future turns out.

Mapmakers are often imaginative, optimistic, strong leaders, and ready to take charge.





BC–The Explorer

Explorers see a wide range of possibilities and are willing to go with anything that comes along. People with this future personality type believe that the future is not yet determined but that it will unfold on its own. They believe our individual actions don't have much influence on how it turns out.

Explorers are often dreamers and can see the best in many types of situations.



Futures Thinking – Future Scenario

Think about that current state, but 10 years in the future. Now, imagine a school or library in the community has closed.

Write down 1-2 ways your current state description from the previous page would change as a result.

Changes: _____



AC–The Observer

Observers watch what is happening around them and see how all the pieces fit together to set us on a path toward the future. People with this future personality type believe that we can notice what will happen if we just pay *attention*. They believe their role is to watch out for the future but not necessarily to shape it.

Observers can often see what is happening around them better than others. They are willing to go with the flow.



AD–The Navigator

Navigators know where the ship is headed, but they also know that we each must take individual actions to make sure the trip goes smoothly. People with this future personality type believe that we are on track for a certain future, and that our decisions and actions help determine exactly how we get there.

Navigators are often confident and decisive and want to limit the amount of uncertainty in a situation.

