

## Some hints on writing scenarios of preferred futures

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THE future cannot be predicted, but preferred futures can be envisioned and created. So don't try to guess what the future will be. You can't do it. Instead start and end with a *vision of your desired goal*: an inspiring, comprehensive, positive statement of *what you want the future to be*; not necessarily what you think it WILL be, but what you (currently) WANT it to be. Your task then is to identify the factors that will help your dream come true, and to mobilize them to help you create your preferred future.

Actually, that is only partly the case. In order to develop a plan to achieve your vision, you need to identify critical factors in three categories:

1. Existing processes and systems that are moving in the direction of your vision, and how they can be enhanced and maintained.
2. Existing processes and systems that stand in the way of your preferred future, and how they can be overcome or marginalized.
3. New processes and systems not presently existing that can help you achieve your preferred future that need to be envisioned, invented, nurtured, and maintained.

Construct a timeline of the way developments should unfold as you move towards your preferred future.

You should first of all identify a time interval sufficiently far into the future that you can plausibly achieve whatever changes and developments you feel are desirable, and yet sufficiently close to the present that you care emotionally about it. That is typically 20-50 years from now. You can make 30 years the "default future" if you wish. Then on the timeline identify:

1. Things that almost certainly will happen between now and your future date: (periodic comets, solar periods; significant dates (eg as 2000 was, or 1994 for was for Hong Kong, or 1992 was for Columbus-bashing and rising indigenous peoples' awareness, or even as 1984 was for all readers of Orwell's book), US elections, the Olympics, World Cup. What else?
2. Things that move in cycles (eg., Kondratiev Long Waves and Generational cycles according to Strauss & Howe. Will the Kondratiev Wave be rising or falling in at your future date? What "generation" will be in power then?).
3. Technological developments that seem likely/possible by your future date on the basis of existing knowledge, research, and funding.

4. Technological and other developments that require plausible breakthroughs in order to happen by your future date.

5. Technological and other developments that seem highly unlikely now but which would help you achieve your preferred future if they were to occur.

6. Some (few) specific events you cause to happen.

7. Things not allowed to happen in your scenario are:

Pure magic;

The Second [or first] Coming of Christ, or of ET;

Global catastrophes [eg., asteroid impacts];

and the like that suddenly change everything entirely, removing all bad people and developments, and making everything good.

Note that catastrophes can happen in your scenario, but they cannot be the cause of a new and perfect humanity which sees the error of its ways, and now is all sweetness and light).