



ACTIVITY: 'TIME TRAVELLER'

TIME: 20 minutes

SIZE: Small groups

SPACE: Room for small groups to work

RESOURCES: Our Future Sheet (p.81 or SenseAbility CD), pens, paper

The aim is for students to use reasoning skills to predict how future changes might impact on their goals.

The result should be discussion about flexible thinking and perspective-taking, and their importance to a strong Sense of Future.

1. Give students one minute to write down three things they'd like to achieve in their lives – preferably from three different domains (e.g. work/career, family, social, personal relationships, community, enjoyable/pleasant events). Now ask them to put these choices aside, but keep them nearby.
2. Commence a brief discussion about how our population is 'ageing'. Use a drawing to illustrate how our population is becoming rectangulated rather than pyramidal (i.e. instead of having children as the broadest percentage of the population at the bottom of the pyramid and the elderly as the smallest at the peak, the spread between these groups is becoming even almost all the way up, like a rectangle).
3. Break the class into groups of two to four students.
4. Allow students a few minutes to discuss in their groups what rectangulation of the population might mean for them.
5. Distribute one Our Future Sheet to each group, and have every student write down what things might be like five, 10, and 20 years from now. Ask them to consider:
 - In what ways might the world be different?
 - Might some professions bloom, and others become redundant?
 - What values will be most important in our society?
6. Have students retrieve their three goals, and then discuss in their groups how those choices might fare in the futures they've been thinking about.
7. Come together as a class for a wider discussion.



DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

- Did discussion among your group give you any ideas you hadn't considered about what the future might be like? What were they?
- Did your perceptions of your three goals change during the activity? Why/why not?
- Has the discussion made you rethink things you might like to pursue in the future? In what way?
- In one word, how would you describe the future? Why that word?
- What thinking skills will be most valuable in dealing with uncertainty in the future?
- Should uncertainty stop you setting goals? What thinking skills will help you remain hopeful about your future?
- How does optimism/pessimism affect your ability to view your future?