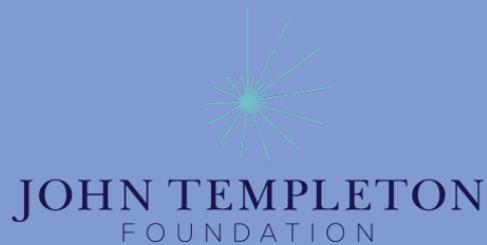




Cultivating Virtue in Leadership

FUTURE-MINDED

in Educational Leadership





Overview



- What is it?
- Why do you want it?
- How do I get it?
- How do I help others get it?
- Resources





What does it mean to be future-minded?



“We are the first generations of people capable of destroying the world, and we may be the last generations who can save it. Much will depend on how we educate our people. Education is important, and the future is coming at us at warp speed. There is no place to hide.” - Gary Marx, 2006

<https://www.edweek.org/ew/marketplace/books/twenty-one-trends-for-the-21st-century.html>





Definition



- **Foresight/future-mindedness** enables the servant leader to understand the lessons from the past, the realities of the present, and the **likely consequence of a decision for the future**. It involves the ability to **envision a desired destination and see the best path forward – taking advantage of opportunities** and planning for contingencies and obstacles that may be encountered along the way.
- This includes thinking about the future not only of the institution or oneself, but also of those one leads...and serves. The ability to look at a problem or an organization from this future oriented perspective means that a servant leader must think beyond day-to-day operational realities and short-term goals to the future they want to create. For many leaders, this is a characteristic that requires discipline and practice and a goal of intentionally developing and mentoring the next generation of servant leaders.

- John Templeton





Future-minded: An Action-Oriented Virtue



Read for discussion:

Facer, K., & Sandford, R. (2010). The next 25 years?: Future scenarios and future directions for education and technology. *Journal of Computer Assisted Learning*, 26(1), 74-93."

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2729.2009.00337.x/full>





Discussion



1. My Introduction and Brainstorming: Please call me _____ . One thing I look forward to in the future is _____. My current definition of future-focused leadership is _____
2. Where do you see the future of education in the US? What are any important trends?





Exploring Future-minded



3. Listen to these podcasts to answer the discussion questions:

- a) <http://teachbetter.co/blog/2017/08/29/tbp-episode-61/>
(future of tech ed)
- b) <http://www.idra.org/resource-center/skills-needed-teaching-diverse-classrooms-podcast-episode-173/>
- c) <http://pushingtheedge.org/podcast/> (multiple podcasts on diversity in various school settings)





Discussion on Podcasts



4. When did a leader demonstrate future-mindedness? What stood out?

5. Journal – Reflect on the emotional aspects of future orientation. What are your concerns regarding the future? Do you feel optimistic? Pessimistic? Why?





Why be future-minded? Classic & Modern Views



“Luck is the residue of design.”
- John Milton (author)

"Infuse your life with action. Don't wait for it to happen. Make it happen. Make your own future. Make your own hope. Make your own love. And whatever your beliefs, honor your creator, not by passively waiting for grace to come down from upon high, but by doing what you can to make grace happen... yourself, right now, right down here on Earth." - Bradley Whitford (American actor)



How do I become more future-minded?



1. What qualities make a leader equipped to handle problems that may arise in the future?
2. How do you go about developing this quality in your professional self? Are there underlying or related virtues?
3. How do you balance future orientation with anxiety/worry about the future? How do you make it a productive area of focus?





Journal and Discussion



1. Reflect on how you might change your personal leadership style to be more flexible and dynamic?
2. Do you consider yourself future oriented in your leadership? What could you do differently?
3. In what ways is the current educational system stuck in the past? Brainstorm ideas for change.





How do you help others get it?



- (1) How can you be a role model for future orientation? What methods would be useful? (Coaching, parenting etc.)
- (2) What are some potential classroom activities students can engage in to build their thoughts about the future and where the world is headed?
- (3) Which parts of this course or other resources would you use for staff professional development in future orientation with people with whom you work or live?



How to promote future-mindedness



Reading from:

Daniel, T. O., Stanton, C. M., & Epstein, L. H. (2013).

[The future is now: reducing impulsivity and energy intake using episodic future thinking.](#)

Psychological Science, 24(11), 2339-2342.

Ted talk:

https://www.ted.com/playlists/141/moocs_101



Teaching Foresight (Future-mindedness) to Children)



Use Graphics: “Although different students do learn best through different media, we have found that the younger the student, the more likely it is that graphics will be the most effective mode of communication. This includes pictures and images combined with some basic verbal explication, but it also includes sessions of graphic creativity for the students to share their own visions of the future with visitors, teachers and fellow students.”

Learn Through Doing: “The most success has been achieved with learning-through-doing approaches, whether drawing, oral description, physical or CAD modeling, web site design, or essays. Comprehension and retention appear to be improved over mere reading, repetition or rote recitation. One measure of the success of educational materials or approaches lies in the level of student response, especially at earlier ages...the longer the undistracted engagement, the more effective the presentation or activity.”

Good Roads and Potholes: Teaching Foresight to Younger Children

Timothy C. Mack

World Future Society

<http://jfsdigital.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/154-S05.pdf>





Resources



Reading from:

Marx, G.. (2006). Consider the Guiding Principles for Connected Future-oriented Leaders.

Schwahn, C. J., & Spady, W. G. (1998). Total leaders: Applying the best future-focused change strategies to education. American Association of School Administrators, 1801 N. Moore St., Arlington, VA 22209

Podcasts:

- The Pulse: Scenario for the Future of Education – Doug Lederman
<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/05/16/pulse-podcast-offers-scenario-future-education>
- Digital Citizenship with Craig Badura <http://www.theedupreneur.org/>

Ted Talks:

https://www.ted.com/talks/ken_robinson_how_to_escape_education_s_death_valley

https://www.ted.com/talks/ken_robinson_changing_education_paradigms





Closing Activity

“Triangle-Square-Circle”



Reflection

1. Draw a **triangle** and next to it write down **three important points** from the module.
2. Draw a **square** and next to it write down anything that “**squares**” **with your thinking**.
3. Draw a **circle** and next to it write down anything that is still “**circling**” **in your head or questions** that you have.

Partially quoted from:

<http://www.theteachertoolkit.com/index.php/tool/triangle-square-circle>





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