Using the Future in Your Classroom

Jason Siko, Ph.D.
2014 Wynalda Teaching and Learning Institute
21 August 2014
Agenda

• Introductions
• History of FS
• Overview of Techniques
• Practice
• Conclusion
Learning Outcomes

- Participants will have a basic understanding of the field of futures studies, including its history, degree programs, organizations, and journals.

- Participants will have a basic understanding of several futures techniques, including backcasting, incasting, scenario development, futures wheel, and causal layered analysis.

- Participants will be able to view ideas and events through social, technological, environmental, economic, and political (STEEP) lenses.

- Participants will be able to identify one or more futures techniques that can be directly applied to their instruction.
What is Futures Studies?

- Systematic study of possible futures
  - Not predictive!
  - Long range

- Graduate Programs in U.S.
  - Houston, Hawaii – Manoa, Regent

- Organizations
  - WFS, WFSF, APF, UN

- Journals
STEEP

- Social (Culture & Values)
- Technological
- Economic
- Environmental
- Political
Tools and Techniques

- Backcasting
- Futures Wheel
- Scenario Incasting
- Causal Layered Analysis
- Scenario Development
Practice

- See Handouts
Think – Pair – Share

- Think about how you could use any of these techniques in your respective classes.
- Pair with someone to discuss your ideas
- Share your ideas with the group
Thanks for coming!

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Figure showing the concepts of Forecasting, Scenarios, and Backcasting.

- Forecasting: Predict most likely future (Future, Present)
- Scenarios: Explore alternative futures (Future, Present)
- Backcasting: Assess feasibility of desired future (Future, Present)

Source: http://wearearising.org/2009/01/13/backcasting/
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Forecasting

*Predict most likely future*

Future

Present

Scenarios

*Explore alternative futures*

Future

Present

Backcasting

*Assess feasibility of desired future*

Future

Present

Source: http://wearearising.org/2009/01/13/backcasting/
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