

Future Voices: Scale Model Projection Lesson Plan

Session 1 - Designing Your Future (40 minutes)

Intro (5 min)

You all spend a lot of time learning about history in school, but today we're going to think about the future instead.

- Have you guys ever thought about the future? Imagined it? Wondered what it might be like?
 - When you do imagine it, what kind of images do you imagine?
 - Are you imagining your future, or the future of your family/ school/ city/ country?
- Where have you seen people imagining the future?
 - Science Fiction books and movies
 - Advertisements
 - Where else?

What is Futuring (5 min)

So, you can see, imagining the future can be really fun, but it's also hard!

Just like it take a certain kind of skill to learn about, and analyze history, it also takes special skills to be able to imagine the future. In fact, because the future hasn't happened yet, there are many possible futures that we can imagine.

But, the good news, is that because the future hasn't happened yet, you get to decide what the future means for you! You can make it anything you want.

This skill, what we as designers call "futuring," involves a lot of different types of work. But most importantly, it means we visualize the future - through drawing, writing and storytelling - and then design products, services and technologies that help people make those futures real.

Designing Your Future (20 min)

So, today you're going to get to be designers and do some futuring.

- While some of the examples we talked about earlier (science fiction, advertisements) imagine the future of large groups, today you're going to get to imagine the future on a very personal scale.

Today, you're going to envision your own future!!

We're going to pass around a coloring sheet. First, we want you to read the prompt at the top.

- Does someone want to read it out loud to the rest of the group?

In this case, the future you're going to be designing is your own, and we're going to start with the job you hope you'll have.

- For now, don't worry about what it would take to get there.
- Think big!! Draw the most exciting thing you can imagine
- You might want to be an astronaut, a paleontologist, a biomedical engineer
- Feel free to use drawing and writing. You can even write a story about your first day of work if you want to.
- Is there anything else in your room that you imagine? On the table? In the picture frames next to the mirror?
- What are the objects and spaces that you imagine being in in your future?

Now, we'd like you to share your future with the rest of the group.

- If it's okay with you, we're going to take a photo of you after you give your presentation. We're going to take the photo back with us and prepare a small gift for you to remember the work you did today imagining your own future.

Building the Future of Homewood (10 min)

Wow! Such an impressive group of imagined futures!

Now that you've done that hard work, of imagining your own future, we'd love to break up into smaller groups to discuss what it might mean to imagine the future of our community where we want to live.

It's hard to imagine the future for yourself, and it can be even harder to imagine the future for your community. But, the community's future is just a combination of the future of its residents.

So, we'd like you to think about how you might work together, with your awesome future classmates, and how you can collaborate to build an awesome future together.

Introducing Next Workshop (2 min)

Thanks so much for your hard work guys! We're going to be back in a few weeks to do a second futuring workshop.

- Today we imagined our futures, and thought about how our futures might contribute to shaping the future of our community.
- Next time, we're going to take on those roles we've imagined for ourselves and work together on a community project.
- That way, we'll get to see what it might be like to be our future selves and design the future of our community together.

Session 2 - Designing the Future of Homewood (40 minutes)

Intro (10 min)

We spent a lot of time last session thinking about your futures, and how your futures will impact the future of your community. Today, we're going to think about how we can make that future more real by focusing on one place within your community.

Here are some examples of how other people have imagined the future. We can see this in science fiction movies, in comic books, in paintings. Each of these examples represents one person's imagination of the future. And, you can also create inspiring images for the future of your neighborhood.

Put students on teams based on their desired futures, together work on the project of designing the church building

Your Community's Future (5 min)

Last time we thought about building a future for our community together, starting with your own future. Now, we're going to hand out ID cards for you all, so you can remember the future you designed for yourself. We're going to give out your ID cards at the end, but for now we'd just like you to think about what you said you wanted to be. Does anyone remember what you said you wanted to be last time?

Just like these ID cards will be a physical reminder of the future you want for yourself, we're going to work on creating a visual expression of the future of a really important building in your community.

Future of the Church Building (20 min)

This is the church building next door where the Maker's Clubhouse after school program is going to meet once the building is done. Because the building is for you, we want you guys to imagine what you want the future of the building to be. We're going to do this by drawing the future on these worksheets. We'll be here to answer any questions, but remember there are no wrong answers. This building can be anything you want it to be.

If you get stuck, think about what the building looks like? What does it sound like? Even, what does it smell like? Who do you see there? What time of day is it open?

Building the Futures to Life (5 min)

Now, we're going to take your imagined futures back with us to create a big projection event where we bring your ideas to life on the church building for your community to see. Here's an example of a similar project we did, where we brought lots of ideas to life in a vacant space.