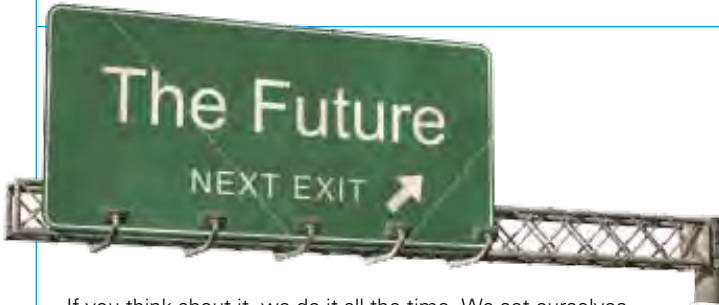


LESSON PLAN 65 : FUTUREME

Objective: Write an email to yourself in the future.

Age range: 5-18



If you think about it, we do it all the time. We set ourselves aims and goals for the future. We have aspirations for what we want to achieve. In the shorter term, we write notes to remind us to do things. But how often do things slip? How often do they get forgotten? Well, not any more. FutureMe is a fantastic idea that will send you your own email reminder ... in the future.

YOU WILL NEED

Computer, internet access, email address.

DEVELOPING SKILLS

Planning, goal setting, prediction, achievement.

METHOD

1. Introduce your class to the idea of communicating with oneself in the future. Why would you do it? What could it achieve? What information would you want to receive some time in the future? It could be:

- a message;
- a prediction;
- some words of inspiration;
- your goals/aims for the week/month/term/year;
- a few thoughts on where you'll or what you'll be up to in a year, two years ... or more;
- a summary of career aspirations; or
- simply a reminder to do something.
- or anything else you can come up with!



2. Log on to **FutureMe** (futureme.org) and explain that it's a service that will store an email you write and deliver it on a chosen date.

Pretty cool, huh! As the site says: *"It's the future self that reflects back on the past. We think it's fun to flip that all around."* And it seems others do, too, with more than 1,404,000 letters already written to the future through the site.

3. Discuss what students want to say to themselves in the future, and when they want to be told. Select 'Write a Letter to the Future'.



4. Once you've decided what you're going to say, you can get writing. Fill in your email address, a subject, and write your message in the spaces provided. It's that easy!

5. Choose the date you want your email to be delivered.

6. Mark if you want the email to be 'Private' or 'Public'. Complete the captcha to verify that you're a human ... and not a pesky spambot!

7. Hit 'Send this to the future!'. If you don't have an account (see below for more on that), you're required to verify your email address – you'll receive a weblink that needs to be visited. Once this is done, your letter will be delivered on the future date you specified!

8. Of course, once you receive your email, you can discuss the merits of its arrival and contents.

SHOULD YOU SIGN UP FOR AN ACCOUNT?

You can use FutureMe perfectly well on an ad hoc basis. However, there are some benefits to registering. It's free and allows you to skip the email verification step.

You can also modify your email, change status, resend old letters, and send emails to others.

It's up to you.

A WORD OF WARNING ...



Users of the site have the option to make their emails 'public'. Please be aware that the content of these may not be suitable for the classroom.