

Prewriting: “Life in Twenty Years” Gallery Walk & Brainstorming

Directions:

- Place students into groups of 4 or 5 and give them several markers.
- Hang large pieces of poster paper around the room (make sure they are spread out). Glue the instructions below to the top of each poster paper.
- Have each group find a poster. Give them 5 minutes to write down as many ideas as they can about their topic. They can even have more than one person writing at a time (note: it’s okay if you don’t have enough time for your groups to get to EVERY station. Just make sure they visit at least 4).
- When the five minutes are up, stop students and have them rotate to the right and begin the process again.
- Once students have rotated through all or several stations, share the ideas with the entire class.

Note: This prompt is a narrative, so encourage students to shape their vision of the future into a story format. This activity will help them think creatively about what the future will be like.

Poster #1- Setting: What will the world look like in 20 years? How will people get around? What will our houses look like in 20 years?

Poster #2 - Characters: What will people look like in 20 years? How will they dress? Act? Talk? What will they do?

Poster #3 - Conflicts: What types of PROBLEMS will you face in 20 years (think, you’ll be around 32 or 33)?

Poster #4 - What will be better about the world in 20 years?

Poster #5 - What will be worse about the world in 20 years?

Brainstorming:

- ***Step 1: In twenty years, you will be around 32 or 33. On a separate piece of paper, jot down ideas for the following:***
 - Where do you live?
 - What is your family life like?
 - Where do you work? What is your job? How do you get there?
 - What is important to you? What do you value? What do you believe in strongly?
 - What are your hopes and dreams now? What do you want to accomplish? In twenty years, have you reached your goals?

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- **Step 2: Now for the hard part...how are you going to tell your story? You won’t be able to focus on all the ideas you had in Step 1, so which ones will make the best story? Think carefully and jot down notes on the following:**
 - What is the setting (where is this story taking place)?
 - You are the main character. Are there any others?
 - What conflicts will occur?
 - What will the climax of your story be?
 - How will you SHOW the reader (not tell) what is important to you and what you believe as a 32 or 33 year old?
- **Step 3: Get started! Your first draft doesn’t have to be perfect. Think about everything you just wrote and get your ideas out...we’ll go back and play with them later on. A good place to begin is by writing a description of you as you are in 20 years...**