

Writing Activity: Future World Scenario

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Directions: Science fiction writers often create future societies based on one or two simple premises or “What if?” questions. For example, a writer might ask the question, “What would happen if people lost contact with nature because they never went outside?” Or “What would happen if pollution dramatically changed the world’s climate?” The writer then uses that premise as the basis of a story.

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With a partner, come up with a premise based on one or more environmental issues. Then use that premise to create a scenario or a plot outline for a short story.

Premise or “What if?” _____

Scene or setting _____

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Plot (What happens first? What follows?)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

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5. _____

Conclusion _____

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A future world scenario

- presents the premise or “What if?” question
- shows the impact the problem is having on the world or society
- outlines a series of events (plot)
- brings matters to a crisis and a conclusion
- often goes on to serve as the basis of a more complete piece of writing, such as a short story or script