



KAPPA DELTA PI
INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IN EDUCATION

Creating Our Future

Adapted from: *Creating Our Future*, <https://www.facingthefuture.org>

With special thanks to Dr. Victor Nolet, Western Washington University

Objective: To help KDP chapter members visualize and plan steps toward a sustainable future

Rationale: How do we create a just and humane world for ourselves and for future generations? Help students identify and plan what they want their future to look like. Using an action–planning model, chapter members visualize their desired future, identify objectives, develop a plan to address local and global issues, and implement their vision through action and service learning.

Notes/Definitions: We recommend reading the accompanying publications *Global Issues and Sustainability* and *Big World, Small Planet*, and completing the “Community Resource Scavenger Hunt.”

Activity: Break members into groups of 3–5. Each group will need butcher paper and/or a dry-erase board and markers. This activity will take about 90 minutes.

Begin by discussing, in groups or as a whole, what members think the future will look like in 20 years if things continue going as they are now. Then ask what they want the future to look like in 20 years. If this is the future they want, how do they make it happen?

As a group, create a list of quality-of-life issues on which to focus. These could include: food, transportation, elder care, water, education, childcare, housing, environment, recreation, energy, security, spirituality/religion, employment, healthcare, and entertainment and recreation.

Using the prompt “In our vision of the future,” have groups create detailed plans for what they want the future to be like. Encourage them to focus on what *will* be done, not on what will not be done, using as much detail as possible (e.g., everyone is using renewable energy sources rather than fossil fuels).

Choose one of the quality-of-life issues to focus on, either as an entirety or in groups. Each group should then create a plan of action for how to address the structural causes of the issue at a local, national, and international level, using your action plan. (20–30 minutes)

Consider:

- Who is affected by this issue?
- What in our local/national/international community is affected by this issue?
- What would this issue look like in the ideal (perfectly sustainable) world?
- Who is already working on this issue and what is being done to change this issue?
- What specific steps need to be taken in order to make the ideal come to fruition?
- What obstacles to the ideal exist and what can be done about them?
- What resources would you need to make these happen?
- What can one person do to affect change on this issue?

After completing your action plan, groups should transfer their information to the butcher paper or white board, including pictures, graphics, and so on. Have groups give a brief presentation of their plan of action. If all groups used the same issue, you could host a vote of the most potentially effective plan. If groups worked on different issues, other groups could have a few minutes to add to one another’s plans.

Ideas for Discussion Questions:

Continue discussing either in small groups or as a single group:

- What would it look like to teach in a perfectly sustainable community?
- How does considering sustainability affect your teaching style?
- How can you take this information/knowledge into your classroom?
- What is one step you could take as an individual and/or as a teacher to work toward a more sustainable community?
- What else do you need to know about these issues in order to be fully informed? Where can you find this information or who can you contact in order to learn more?
- What keeps us, as individuals or as a society, from making these ideals come to life?
- What are the biggest disparities between reality and the ideal in your community?
- Did your group disagree on ideals or steps? What do you think causes these differences? How did you settle them?

For help creating this activity and action plans, this site has a step-by-step walkthrough of the process:

<https://www.kent.ac.uk/careers/sk/skillsactionplanning.htm>.