

9. Description of “Future History” Exercise

This is a good exercise for the end of the semester, or any point where you want the students to synthesize what they have learned about political action. I ask students to decide on a change that they would like to see happen (e.g. quality education for all). Then I ask them to imagine that it is the year 2025, and that change has taken place. I divide them into groups of 3-4, and ask them to draw a timeline showing how it happened. I encourage them to include all the forms of political engagement which they have studied. Then, the timelines are displayed, and the teams explain their choices. Students enjoy this, and it underscores one of the main themes of the course, that people can make a difference through political action.