

What's Next for Online Learning?

Exploring Signals and Drivers of Change

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Session Objectives

- Define key terms: futures thinking, forecast, signals, drivers, trends
- Describe future trends that will have an impact on online learning
- Utilize the data and foresight tools to draft a forecast related to the future of online learning



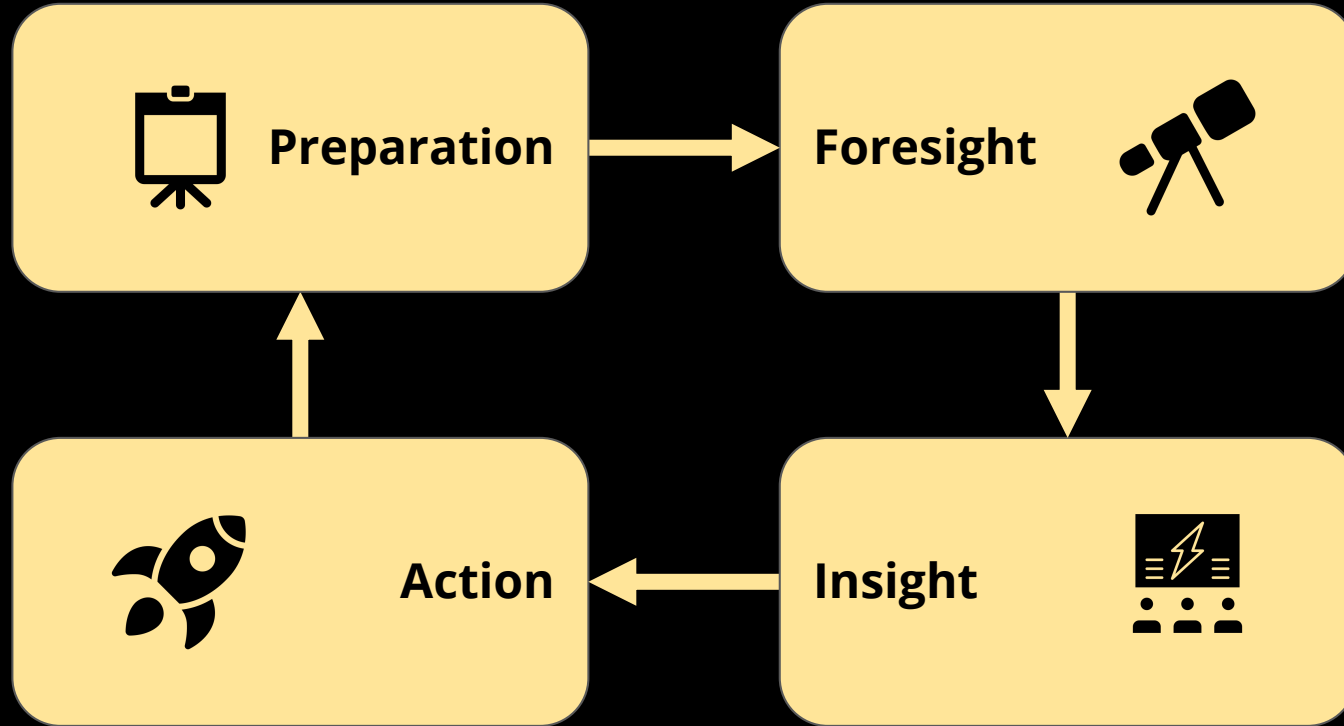
Institute for the Future

<https://www.iftf.org/>

What is Futures Thinking

A person in silhouette stands on the left, looking towards a futuristic cityscape. The city features a large, illuminated geodesic dome that encloses a cluster of buildings. The sky is a vibrant mix of orange, red, and blue, with wispy clouds. The overall scene conveys a sense of contemplation and vision for the future.

The Strategic Foresight Cycle



Signals vs Trends

- Concrete, observable example
- Small, local, sometimes anecdotal
- May or may not grow into something larger
- Broad patterns of change
- More established, recognizable across contexts
- Evidence of growing momentum

The STEEP Framework

Social Factors - Demographics, cultural norms, student expectations

Technological Factors - Tools, platforms, digital ecosystems

Economic Factors - Budgets, affordability, workforce needs

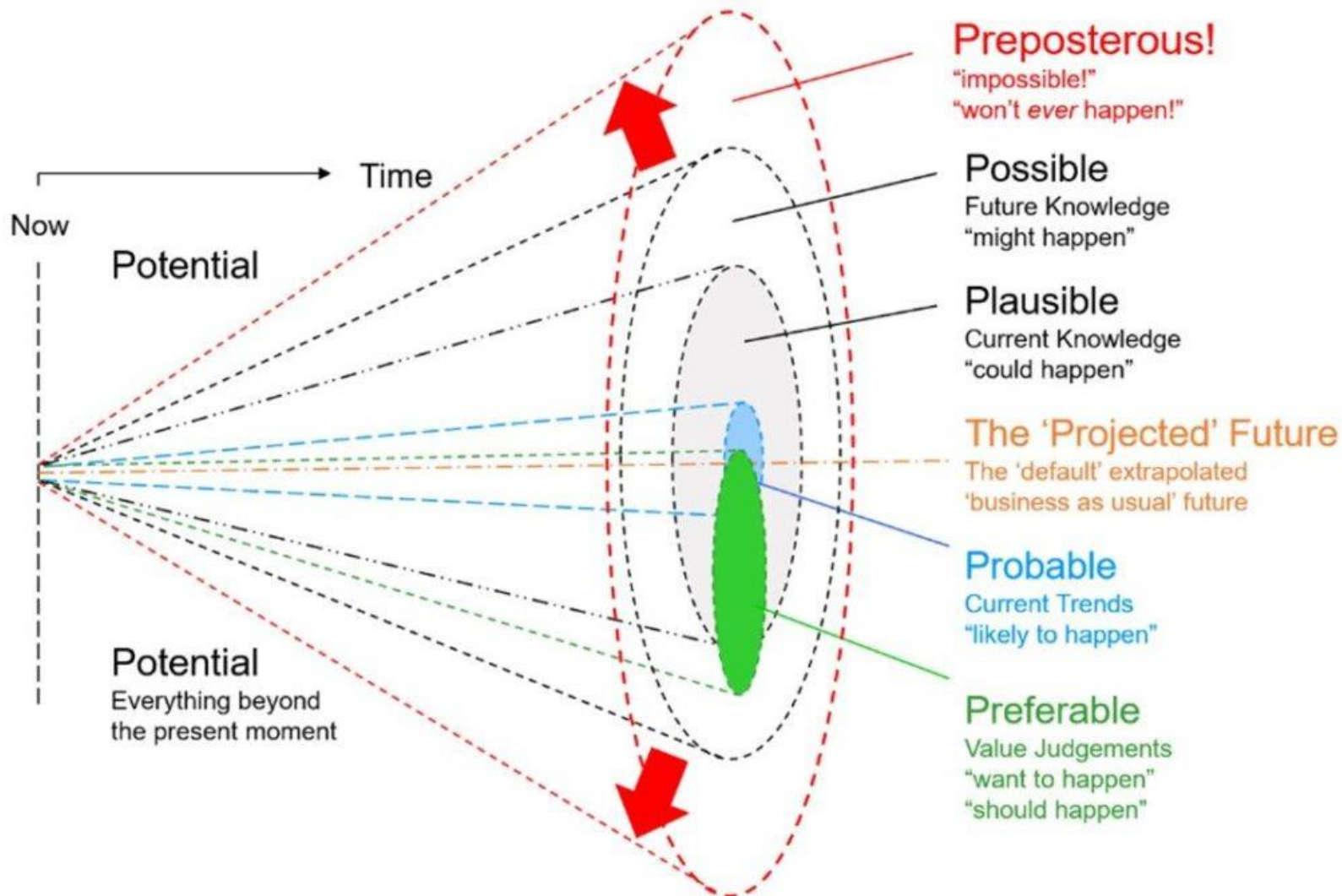
Environmental Factors - Sustainability, climate impacts

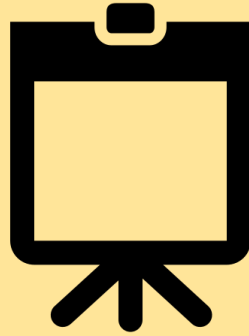
Political (or Policy) Factors - Policy, regulations, governance

Drivers of Change

Key forces influencing the world, such as technology, demographics, or climate change.

Not one forecast...
But multiple forecasts





Preparation

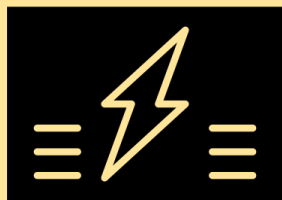
Activity

Activity



Foresight

Activity



Insight



Action



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