

UNESCO Chair in Learning and Teaching Futures Literacy in the Anthropocene

Method mosaic

Title:	ABC of Futures
Target audience:	from primary level II onwards
Time:	Approx. 1.5 hours
Objective:	Valuing sustainability (GreenComp 4.1.1)
Topic:	Reflect on values now and in the future
Materials:	Paper and writing materials or PC/tablet and collaborative writing tool

Brief Description:

The alphabet provides an order by determining the sequence of the letters. The abecedarium as a literary form utilises this order in a playful way: each line – which can consist of a word or a sentence – begins with the next letter in the alphabet.

The *abecedarium* can also be used as a brainstorming method for thinking about the future: Terms are sought for a topic, at least one term for each letter of the alphabet. The seemingly arbitrary order of the alphabet enables out-of-the-box thinking. Only in a second step can the terms be clustered in order to visualise hierarchies and interrelationships.

After a visual impuls – e.g. with landscapes used in different ways – the learners are given the task of thinking about what is important and valuable to them in a desirable future, using the alphabet: For each letter in the alphabet, a word is to be found that names this personally important and valuable thing. The abecedaria can be written on posters on flipcharts or digitally in a collaborative writing tool such as Etherpad or Google Docs, individually, in tandems or small groups. (An inspiring example is the "ABC of Futures" by Melanie Laibl: <https://anthropozaen.hypotheses.org/2426>.)

The abecedaria are presented in a gallery walk. In the subsequent reflection round, similarities and differences are explored and the values of the future are discussed: Which values are individualistic, which values are important for life in community? Which values are decisive for the use of natural resources? In the best-case scenario, a joint abecedarium is created with terms that have been agreed upon as a compromise for a desirable future for all.

In the next step, the learners design their joint **ABC of Futures** using artistic and multimedia techniques, e.g. calligraphy, collage, or video.

Citation Suggestion:

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