

## UNESCO Chair in Learning and Teaching Futures Literacy in the Anthropocene

### Method mosaic

- Title:** Association map
- Target group:** Primary Level, Secondary Level 1, Secondary Level 2
- Time:** Approx. 30 minutes
- Objective:** Futures literacy (GreenComp 3.1)
- Topic:** Imagining futures and creative writing

#### Brief Description:

The teacher explains the goal of the exercise: to create a collaborative story about the future using an association map. At the board or whiteboard, the teacher demonstrates the method, introducing a sample topic like “School in the Future.” Students are encouraged to freely associate and suggest words that come to mind for this topic, such as “flying classrooms,” “hologram teachers,” “virtual field trips,” or “AI teaching assistants.” The teacher writes down all the terms in the form of an association map, arranging them around the main topic “School in the Future” and possibly connecting them with lines or circles. The teacher then demonstrates how these ideas can be woven into a short story that describes a futuristic version of school.

Next, students are divided into small groups (3–5 people per group). Each group chooses its own future-related topic, such as “Cities of the Future,” “Jobs of the Future,” or “Leisure in the Future.” Together, they brainstorm as many words and ideas as possible for their chosen topic, organizing these in an association map. Like in the teacher’s demonstration, they arrange all their terms around the main topic and can draw connections between related words.

Based on their association map, each group then creates a short story that incorporates all the words they collected. The story should present their vision for the future topic, creatively integrating the terms into the text. Groups should ensure that the story is logically structured and that the associated terms form a coherent picture of the future.

Each group reads their story aloud to the class without directly naming their topic. The rest of the students then guess the future topic based on the story. This keeps the activity interactive and enhances students’ attention and understanding of different future visions.

#### Citation suggestion:

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