

FUTURES WHEEL

INTRODUCTION

A FUTURES WHEEL BEGINS WITH A CIRCLE DRAWN IN THE CENTER OF A PIECE OF PAPER. WITHIN THE CIRCLE, IS WRITTEN A SUBJECT THAT INTERESTS YOU OR MORE IMPORTANTLY A TREND OR NEW TECHNOLOGY. THE PURPOSE OF THE WHEEL IS TO EXPLORE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE SUBJECT IN THE CIRCLE.

ONE THEN EXTENDS A NUMBER OF SPOKES FROM THE CENTRAL CIRCLE. EACH SPOKE ENDS IN A POSSIBLE RESULT OR ASSOCIATION OF THE INITIAL SUBJECT. THE PROCESS IS THEN CONTINUED TO EXAMINE THIRD AND FOURTH ORDER CONSEQUENCES.

A FUTURES WHEEL WILL HELP A PERSON SEE THE INTERNAL CONSISTENCIES OF A TREND FORECAST AND THE INCONSISTENCIES.

KEPT UNDER CONTROL, THIS IS AN EXCELLENT METHOD FOR MULTI-CONCEPT FORMATTION AS WELL AS FOR BRAINSTORMING.

FUTURES WHEEL

I. Introduction

A futures wheel begins with a circle drawn in the center of any piece of paper. Within the circle, is written a subject that interests you, or more importantly a trend, a new piece of technology or some facets of a cross impact matrix. The purpose of a futures wheel is to explore the consequences of the item in the circle.

After placing the technology, idea or trend in the circle, one extends a number of spokes from the central circle on the piece of paper. Each spoke ends in a possible result or association of the initial idea. The process is then continued to examine third and fourth order consequences of the germinal thought.

A futures wheel will help a person see the internal consistencies of a trend forecast and impact matrix, or the inconsistencies. Futures wheels can get out of hand if you keep running out new lines. There are visual and spatial limits! Kept under some control, this is an excellent technique for multi-concept formation as well as for brainstorming.

II. Examples

Figure II A shows the empty shell of a futures wheel

Figure IIB show the futures wheel done by a fifth grader.

III. Exercise

Take an idea, one of the trends you have projected etc., and complete a futures wheel.



