

Directions: You have watched the video program, "The Power of Vision". Think about what Joel Barker said in this program and answer the following questions. We will discuss these in class.

1. At the conclusion of the program, Joel Barker said, "Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes time. Vision with action can change the world." What does he mean by this? In what ways might vision be more powerful than our dreams or our unguided actions?
2. Do you know people who just "let things happen" in their lives? How do you react to these people?
3. Joel Barker said, "It is important to think about, dream about and ultimately envision the future." Do you agree or disagree? What benefits come from thinking about the future? What can you lose if you do not dream about the future?
4. Joel Barker said, "Our visions of the future are the most powerful motivators for human change." How do you react to this statement? Do you agree or disagree? Why? Are there some personal examples you can think of which apply to this statement?

5. What countries can you think of that developed or changed their vision of the future during our lifetime? What was their old vision of the future? What was their new vision of the future? How did this change them?

6. What do you think is the vision of the future of the United States as a nation? What are our common goals? Do you agree or disagree? Why?

7. What do you think is the vision of the future of Mankato/North Mankato as a community? What are our common goals? Do you agree or disagree? Why? What do you think should be our community's vision?

8. Joel Barker states that visions must be initiated by leaders. they must take the input of the community, focus it and bring it into a coherent, powerful vision. Who would you specifically identify as the true leaders of the United States today?

9. What is your opinion about what Joel Barker says about the influence an individual can have on the future? Do you agree or disagree? Think about the starfish story. What influence would you like to have on the future?



The Starfish Story

A young man is walking along the ocean and sees a beach on which thousands and thousands of starfish have washed ashore. Further along he sees an old man, walking slowly and stooping often, picking up one starfish after another and tossing each one gently into the ocean.

"Why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?," he asks.

"Because the sun is up and the tide is going out and if I don't throw them further in they will die."

"But, old man, don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and starfish all along it! You can't possibly save them all, you can't even save one-tenth of them. In fact, even if you work all day, your efforts won't make any difference at all."

The old man listened calmly and then bent down to pick up another starfish and threw it into the sea. "It made a difference to that one."