

# The Futures Wheel Worksheet

The Futures Wheel is a visual strategic planning tool developed by Jerome C. Glenn in 1971. It's designed to help explore the potential ripple effects coming from a particular change, trend, event, or decision. By mapping out not just the (first-order) consequences, but also the second and third order consequences that follow, the Futures Wheel provides a structured way to think systematically about the future.

## Instructions

1. Decide on the trend/event/decision you want to explore and write it in the middle circle.
2. Think about the immediate consequences of that trend/event/decision and put them into the 'green' circles.
3. Continue outward until you are satisfied.
4. Step back, analyze and discuss your Futures Wheel.

## Tips

- First order consequences typically occur within the first year of a trend/event/decision.
- Second order consequences typically occur from 2 to 6 years after a trend/event/decision.
- Third order events typically occur between 5 and 15 years or more after the trend/event/decision.
- These timings are only guidelines, not rules
- Set yourself a time limit when completing a Futures Wheel. It is easy to get stuck trying to anticipate what might happen instead of asking what future we want and why we want it.
- Remember that the Futures Wheel is a tool to facilitate strategic conversations. Anything you put into the wheel can be enhanced/avoided depending on your decisions.

