

Instructions for the Essay on

2052 A Global Forecast for the Next Forty Years

Global Challenges & Sustainable Futures

CEMUS | Centre for Environment and Development Studies | Autumn 2016

In the book *2052: A Global Forecast for the Next Forty Years*, Jørgen Randers discusses possible situations of the future. The book covers many challenges humanity is facing today and will be dealing with during the next decades. Critically reflect on the book and discuss based on the questions below.

- 1) Discuss the overall relevance of the book *2052* to the current society and argue for your reasons, using the following guiding questions:

Do you think the book enhances change at the societal and/or individual level? Why? or why not?

Is the way Randers presents the future useful in building a sustainable society? How, or how not? How is the way Randers presents the future enabling or limiting the ways we think about (different) futures? Relate to different visions and ideas that we have explored in the course about what a sustainable future might mean.

Related resources from the course:

- Oreskes & Conway (2014) *Collapse of the Western Civilization*
- Course Reader for 'Workshop 2: Whose futures? How do we think about the future?' (Nov 8), 'Workshop 3: Back from the Future We Want' (Nov 15)
- Experiences from the Group Project
- Other

Write minimum 600 words, maximum 800 words. Use at least 3 clear references to the book *2052*, and 3 references to other course literature.

- 2) Throughout the book, the author and different experts explored how key aspects will look like in the coming decades.

Choose one Glimpse from each Part (Part 1, 2, and 3). Justify why you selected them, and discuss it critically based on the following questions:

What is the most relevant message for each Glimpse? Do you agree with the view that the Glimpse presents? Why, or why not? What assumptions are underlying their arguments, and how are they affecting their views and analyses? What do you think is missing?

Write minimum 200 words, maximum 300 words for each Glimpse to discuss these questions. Use at least 6 clear references.



- 3) *“How satisfied will I be with my life in 2052?” Which quickly translate into questions like: ‘Will I be richer?’ ‘Will I be able to buy what I buy today?’ ‘Will I be able to pursue my hobbies?’ ‘Can I still go to the beach for summer vacation?’ ‘How will my family fare?’ Or slightly deeper: ‘Will there be a job for me in 2052? And if so, what type of job?’ ‘Will I be able to live where I prefer to live?’ ‘Will my children have the kind of comforts I have had?’”*

Randers, p. 54

The book presents the situation in different parts of the world and different topics in year 2052, and finishes with giving ‘Twenty Pieces of Personal Advice’ (p. 328-350).

Where do you see yourself in these upcoming decades, and how could your life be, considering what you read? How can what the book describes affect you (personally, professionally, etc.)?

Taking these thoughts into account, write a letter from your *future self in year 2052* to your *present self in year 2016*. Make your own Pieces of Personal Advice in order to have a **much better world for you and the generations after you**. Keep in mind that you do not have to follow the structure or topics of Randers’ Pieces of Personal Advice. You are free to write freely, personally, and imaginatively. You can include visuals and other writing styles (e.g. poems) to complement your text.

Write freely but in maximum of 600 words.

Formal Requirements

- Include a title of the assignment, course name, your name, and total number of words in the document.
- Name the file in the following way: surname.givenname2052 (example: smith.john2052.doc)
- Write minimum 1800 maximum 2300 words and upload the document (.doc or .pdf) in the **Hands-In area on Studentportalen**.
- In addition, bring your paper to the Seminar 2 (**Tuesday November 22nd**).
- **Final Deadline: Monday, November 21st 17:00.**

References

- Use Harvard Style Reference, following the guidelines on the Course Website (<http://www.web.cemus.se/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Harvard-Referencing-Handout-GCSF15.pdf>)

NOTE: This is a graded assignment (3-4-5), read by an external examiner. If you do not meet the deadline, the assignment will not be read and the assignment will not be passed. For students that fail this assignment, there will be a re-examination assignment later.

See grading criteria on Studentportalen.