

Our world is changing faster than ever. The future seems to be everywhere. Almost at any given moment, we are bombarded by the latest trends, with those in the vanguard of change promising to revolutionise the world. Change is coming fast. But how can we prepare students for jobs that have not yet been created, to tackle social challenges that we can't yet visualise, and to use technologies that have not yet been invented?

With such questions in mind, it may be worth reflecting a little on the rapid technological advances the world has experienced in the last couple of years, or trying to understand the various political, environmental, economic, and social changes transforming our reality today. For many, the direction that will be taken by these undercurrents may be nigh impossible to predict. However, living amid such flux undoubtedly places many of us in situations of high uncertainty. Interestingly, many people believe that the opposite of uncertainty is certainty. But in fact, it is rather being open to what is unknown.

Future Literacy is what we may call the skill that allows people to better understand the role of the future that is to come in what they observe and do. Being future literate empowers the imagination, and enhances our ability to prepare, recover and invent as changes occur. Future Literacy offers an opportunity to take advantage of the unpredictability of the world, looking to the future with curiosity and optimism, and viewing new challenges as instead opportunities for the development (or regeneration) of a new and thriving way of living.

A future-oriented mindset underpins constant and conscious innovation. When we embrace the idea that learning can happen all around us, we experience the joy of learning in our everyday lives. Everyone is learning everywhere. Traditionally, educational practices use the past to understand the present (imagination). By expanding the ways on how to use the future in education, Future Literacy creates opportunities to consciously innovate the present and build better futures – a common aspiration of [ONE.WHY](#).

At ONE.WHY, we also believe that we can't ignore the importance of students attending classes to learn; learning outdoors and in communities helps students to collaborate, make connections, and integrate knowledge into real-world applications. This way, they become problem solvers who discover meaningful connections between what they learn in the classroom and the world around them.

Students need to discover connections between what they learn in the classroom and life outside the school. This boosts their interest to attend school and learn because they realise that the knowledge and skills they learn in school are important to improving life outside the school.

That's why our Future Literacy concept is strongly embedded in the principle of regeneration; our triad of Soil, Soul and Society is based on the premise that in order to build a better society, we need to start out by reshaping our relationships with the Earth and our environment, our desires and senses of fulfilment, and finally our relationship with other human beings, ranging from the closest relationships that we have to the whole human race, restoring a proper sense of the common, real heritage that we all share and therefore must protect.

The Future Literacy concept proposed by ONE.WHY stimulates this virtuous cycle of regeneration, and we believe in the power of education to make it possible. However, it is also

a strategy to engage students – the young individuals who will live through and experience these challenges – due to their power to transform other people and institutions.

As Malcolm X once put it, “Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today”.

Mariëtte Huizinga

Mariëtte Huizinga is the founder of ONE.WHY, a social enterprise driven by a desire to make people resilient to the future. Mariëtte initiates worldwide training courses related to future skills in Brazil, South Africa & Mexico. It's her goal to make learning accessible for everyone everywhere. She believes that we can create a change that matters if we focus on future skills. So let's plant the future together --- www.onewhy.org