

Developing Snapshots from the Future

On the opposite side of this worksheet, create a vivid snapshot from the year 2050 in which an aspect of the wicked problem has been resolved. The snapshot should be **a visual/verbal narrative about everyday life that reflects new beliefs, assumptions and cultural norms**, new ways of interacting with each other, new practices, laws, policies, types of infrastructures etc.

1. Begin by thinking about how your group's **beliefs and assumptions about the problem** will have changed by 2050. Beliefs and assumptions are often the root of wicked problems, so in order to develop solutions that transcend existing limitations and barriers, imagine what a 180 degree shift in beliefs in 2050 would look like. How would your group think radically differently about the problem? What would beliefs be around it?

Try to formulate a succinct description of the new belief system. For instance, attitudes about crime in the present might be summarized as *"criminals are 'bad' people and should be locked away from society and punished."* In 2050, attitudes might have shifted to *"a crime committed by a member of a community is seen as a failure on the part of the community and it assumes responsibility for the accused's rehabilitation and support."*

Thinking about and articulating this radical change in attitudes is a powerful way to transcend existing paradigms and entrenched ways of thinking about problem and solution. Play with radical ideas and don't shy away from what might seem like unrealistic, 'utopian' visions. The point is to imagine "what if" and come up with a way of thinking about things that is entirely new. Remember: you are articulating a new belief system that concerns the problem you're working on.

2. Once your group has articulated new beliefs and assumptions about the problem itself, refer back to the list of fears/concerns and hopes/desires articulated in the previous exercise. These are the 'ingredients' with which you will develop a future-based 'snapshot' in which aspects of the problem have been resolved. **What would everyday life look like if your fears/concerns or hopes/aspirations were resolved?**

What would you be able to do that you can't now? How would your quality of life improve? How would it affect your life in your household/with your family? Your neighbors? At work and play? How would the resolution of these fears/concerns improve your interactions with others and the ability to satisfy your and your family's needs? What does it look/sound/smell like? What role does the environment play in this future snapshot?

Now look at the list of hopes/aspirations to see if they can also help 'flesh out' the snapshot. Try to draw aspects of your future vision and supplement it with words. **You are designing and articulating solutions, through a description of everyday life!** The point is to describe an aspect of a future that you and others can get excited about by thinking beyond our current paradigms and practices. Don't worry about the barriers, just imagine possibilities!

Finally, refer to the list of Manfred Max-Neef's basic needs and list how many needs are satisfied simultaneously by your solution/snapshot.

Creating your Snapshot

Several templates have been provided with which to create your snapshot. You might want to create several snapshots that are part of a larger narrative or vision of everyday life in 2050 (as it relates to the problem). We have provided an instructional sheet that shows you how to draw simple human forms in a variety of ways that will help you communicate your ideas. You can take a number of approaches. **You might want to show various 'facets' of everyday life that aren't necessarily chronological. Or you might want to treat your snapshot like a comic strip with words and images that tell a story.** Others may want to create a verbal narrative or story about future lifestyles.

We've taken this approach to get away from the vocabulary of post-it notes which can become cryptic and are not very evocative. For this reason **write in complete sentences and try to make your snapshot understandable to someone who was not familiar with the problem or the exercise.**

We're asking you to formulate solutions within the context of everyday life because that is what unites us all. Everyone cares about the quality of everyday life. **Providing glimpses of a future that everyone wants to occupy can be a powerful motivator for developing projects in the present.** These projects and initiatives can act as 'steps' in the transition toward the future you are visualizing.

What aspect of the problem does your snapshot address? *print headline below*

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Describe the ways in which societal and cultural, assumptions, beliefs and norms have changed in 2050. How are they different from the beliefs and assumptions that underpin the problem now?

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Snapshots of Lifestyles in 2050

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GROUP NAME

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SNAPSHOT PROFILE

At what level of scale is your snapshot situated?
(The household, neighborhood, city or region)

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What fears/concerns/hopes/aspirations does it address?

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What basic needs (according to Max-Neef) are met by this snapshot from the future?

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Snapshots of Lifestyles in 2050

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Snapshots of Lifestyles in 2050

GROUP NAME

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Creating Snapshots of the Future

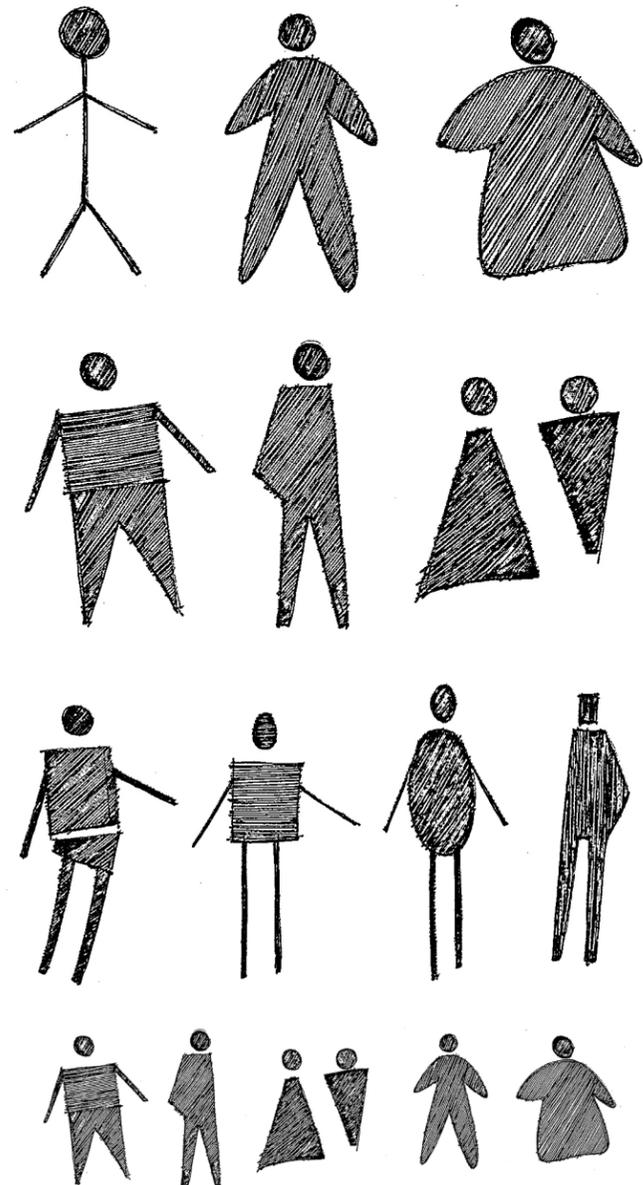
(Diagramming future narratives)

A snapshot from the future is a representation of an imaginary 'situation' in which a concern or fear has been resolved, or a hope or aspiration, realized.

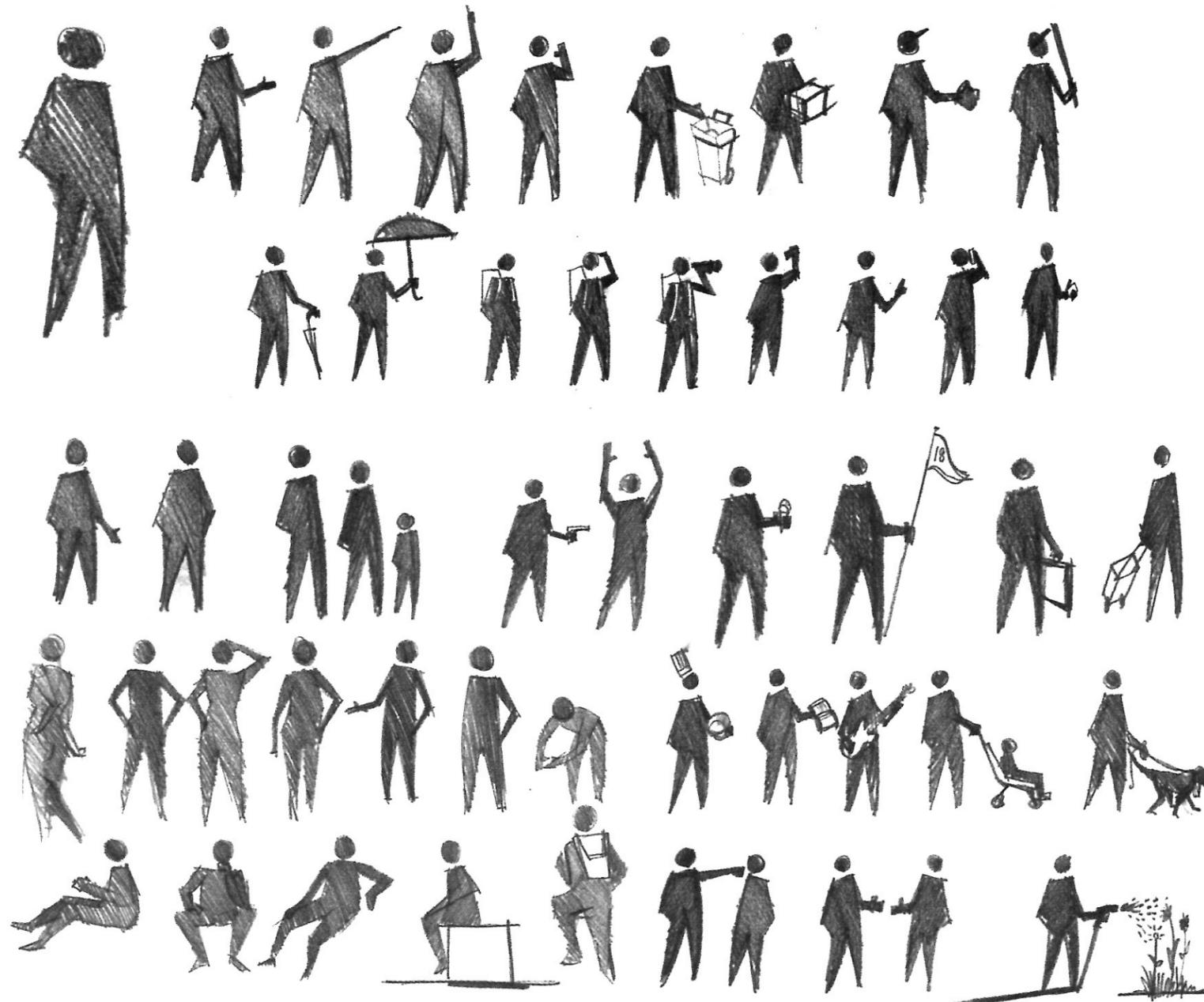
It's a 'narrative vignette' intended to convey an aspect of everyday life from the year 2050. Even though the purpose is to think about how issues or problems in the present might be resolved in the distant future, we want you to **visualize within the context of everyday life and lifestyles**. Think about these worksheets as a page in a photo album or a few paragraphs from a novel. Combining images and words is a way to break out of the vocabulary of 'post-its' and try to create vivid images of a future you and others want to occupy.

This exercise combines the rigor of problem-solving with the appeal of story-telling. It doesn't matter if you can't draw--stick figures are OK, but try to visualize what it feels like, how are you and others interacting in ways that are different? What changes in attitudes and social norms can you represent in the vignette? Draw/write your snapshot with the objective of getting people excited about it! Below are some simple iconic examples of how to represent people in different situations. This is a bit like drawing a comic strip, but it doesn't have to be a chronological story-it can simply be 'facets' of a situation. Play with it and have fun imagining a more desirable future!

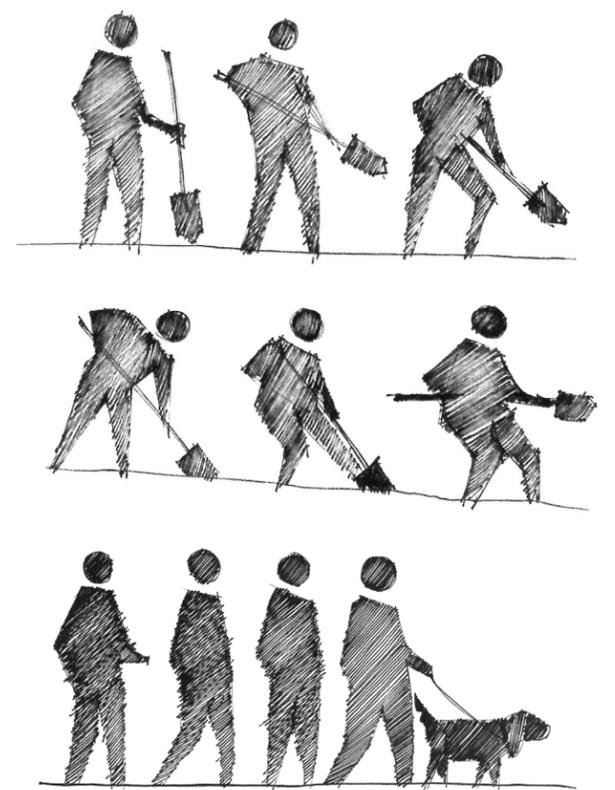
Basic figures



Gestural figures

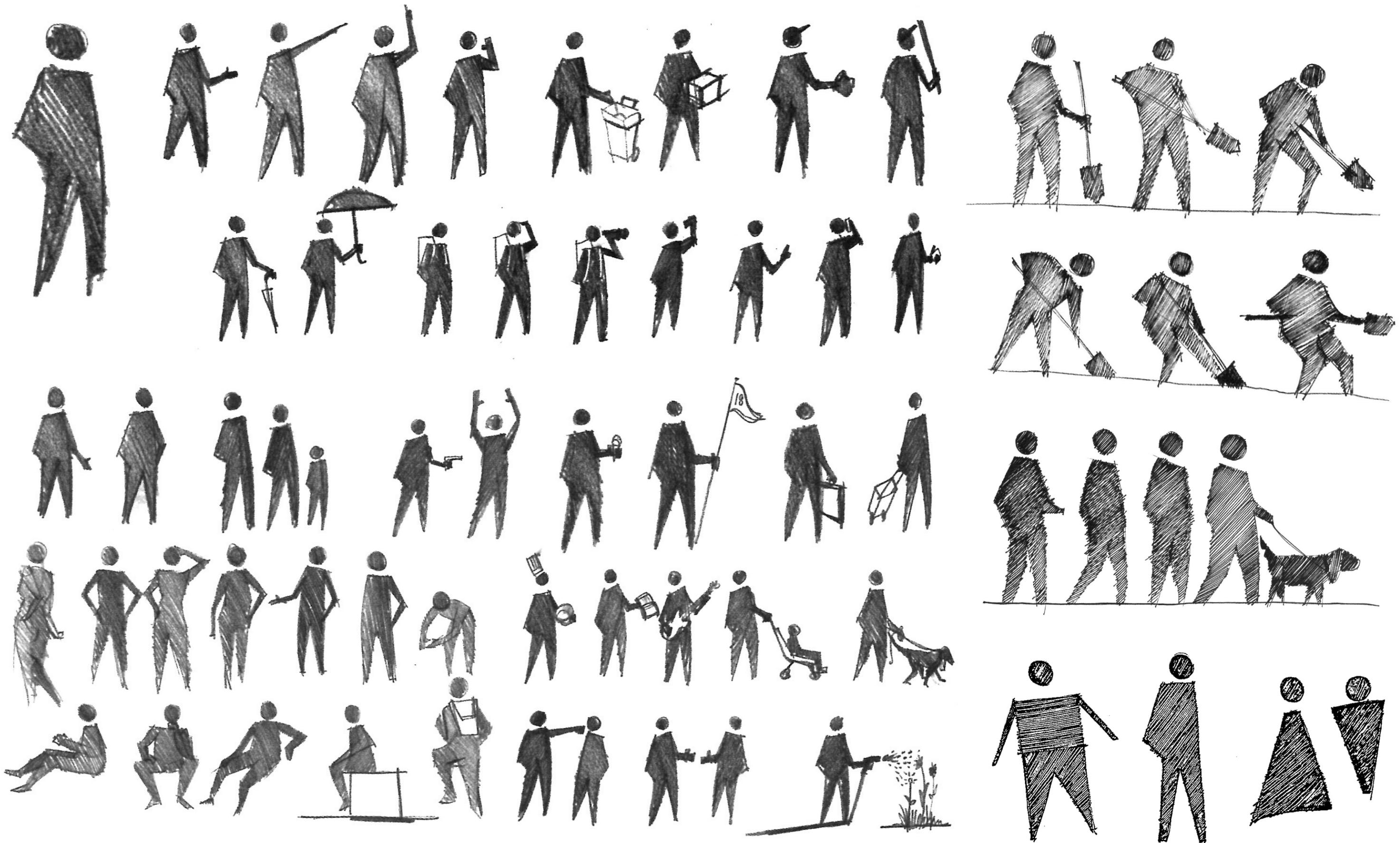


Action figures



Diagramming concepts & ideas

Basic human figures are easy to draw. You've been provided with transparent sticks that will enable you to trace these figures if you wish and paste them into the snapshot templates. The basic figures on the left side of this sheet are especially easy to copy and you'll be surprised at how readily people can interpret your meaning with simple line drawings and even stick figures!



What aspect of the problem does your snapshot address? *print headline below*

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY, POLICE AGGRESSION
LACK OF STRONG COMMUNITY

Describe the ways in which societal and cultural, assumptions, beliefs and norms have changed in 2050. How are they different from the beliefs and assumptions that underpin the problem now?

IN 2050, CRIME IS SEEN AS A RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERY COMMUNITY TO RESOLVE, AND A FAILURE TO SUPPORT THOSE CITIZENS WHO TURN TO CRIME. THE COMMUNITY TAKES RESPONSIBILITY TO JUDGE THE ACCUSED AND TAKE CHARGE OF THEIR REHABILITATION IN ORDER TO SUCCESSFULLY REJOIN SOCIETY. THE FOCUS HAS SHIFTED FROM PUNISHMENT TO REHABILITATION AND ATONEMENT IN ORDER TO REGAIN DIGNITY AND RESPECT. ULTIMATELY, TO BE ABLE TO LIVE AND CONTRIBUTE MEANINGFULLY.

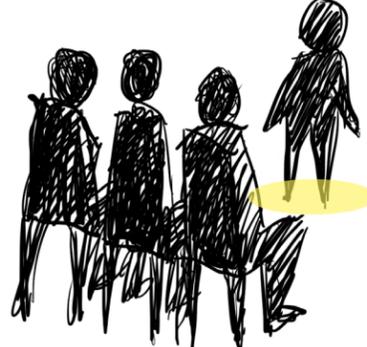
Snapshots of Lifestyles in 2050



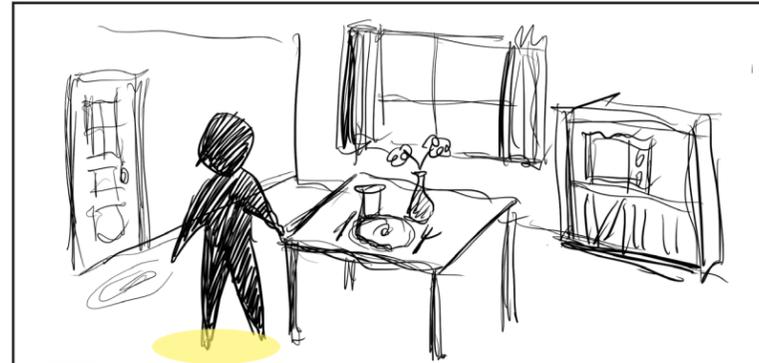
1. A HOMELESS MAN ROBBS AN ELDERLY WOMAN IN A LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD



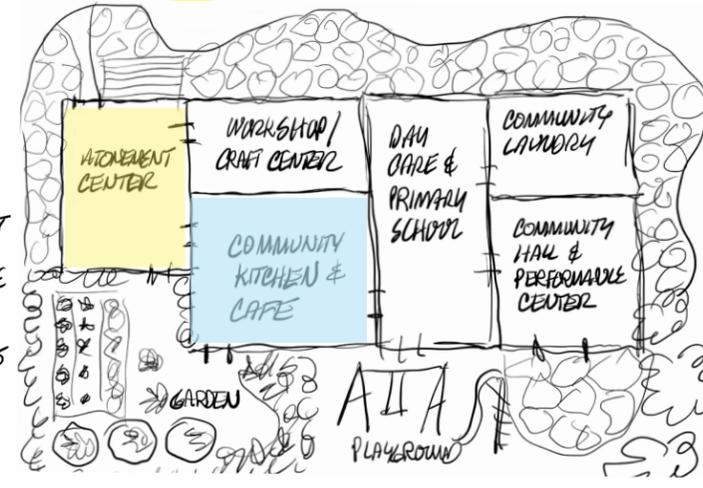
2. HE IS APPREHENDED BY THE LOCAL, NEIGHBORHOOD SECURITY FORCE AND TAKEN TO THE 'ATONEMENT CENTER'



3. IN THE ATONEMENT CENTER HE APPEARS BEFORE A COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS, THE LOCAL POLICEMAN AND A CITY/REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE



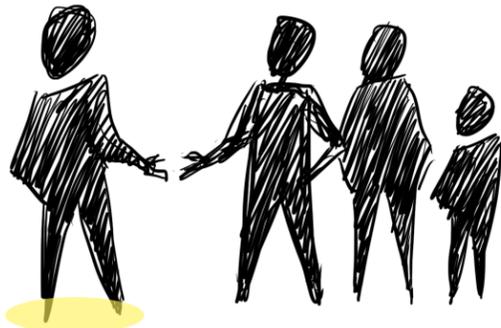
4. WHILE HE AND HIS VICTIM UNDERGO COUNSELING, HE LIVES AT THE ATONEMENT CENTER, WHERE HE IS GIVEN MEDICAL CARE, DRUG COUNSELING AND WORKS IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER IN WHICH THE ATONEMENT CENTER IS HOUSED. HE IS ALSO GIVEN VOCATIONAL INTRODUCTIONS IN THE KITCHEN, REPAIR SHOP AND GARDENS.



5. AFTER A FEW WEEKS HE MEETS WITH THE VICTIM TO ASK FOR-FORGIVENESS AND RESTITUTION IS MUTUALLY AGREED UPON



6. HIS 'SENTENCE' IS COMPRISED OF COMMUNITY SERVICE AND HE AGREES TO HELP HIS VIKTIM BUILD A VEGETABLE GARDEN.



7. AFTER HE SERVES HIS SENTENCE, HE IS GIVEN THE OPTION OF JOINING THE COMMUNITY. HE IS RESPECTED FOR HAVING PAID HIS DEBT AND BEGINS TO COUNCIL 'AT RISK' YOUTH IN THE COMMUNITY.



GROUP NAME

FRIENDSHIP RESIDENTS

SNAPSHOT PROFILE

At what level of scale is your snapshot situated? (The household, neighborhood, city or region)

THE NEIGHBORHOOD

What fears/concerns/hopes/aspirations does it address?

LACK OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, OVERALL LACK OF SAFETY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, MORE "EYES ON STREET" POLICING THAT INVOLVES THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, SOME OF THE ROOT CAUSES OF CRIME ARE BEING ADDRESSED (DRUG ADDICTION, LACK OF COMMUNITY ROLE MODELS, INABILITY TO MAKE A LIVING/UNEMPLOYMENT)

What basic needs (according to Maslow) are met by this snapshot from the future?

PROTECTION, UNDERSTANDING, PARTICIPATION, SUBSISTENCE, CREATION, IDENTITY, FREEDOM.