



Assignment 5: Letter to Self from the Future

Learning Objective(s):

- Engage in a speculative, imaginative process about your own future career
- Engage in a speculative, imaginative process about disasters and climate change
- Practice writing in a non-academic format

Core concepts/terms:

- Visioning
- Storytelling

Evaluation Criteria: You will be graded based on your demonstration of your ability to:

- Try and write out of what may be your comfort zone.

Your task is to engage in an exercise that involves visioning a future career path, speculating about the future, and writing in a storytelling manner. Simply put, you need to write a 500ish word letter from yourself in 2029 to yourself now, assuming you've spent some or all of the period 2019-2029 involved in reducing risks from natural hazards and climate change in your profession.

There are essentially no requirements for this exercise. But you may find it fruitful to consider some of the prompts below. At the risk of stating the obvious, I hope you'll write the letter from the frame of reference of this course: professionalism, emotions/compassion, and disasters/climate change.

- If many things fall into place for you, what job(s) might you hold in the coming decade?
- What types of work will be meaningful to you in the coming years?
- What are areas of professional growth your hope to engage in?
- What are some foreseeable struggles you might encounter?
- What would it be like to work in the area you've chosen for your disaster/climate change area of focus?
- What might cause you to quit or change career paths in the next decade (work, family, etc.)?
- How will work in the areas of disasters and climate change evolve in the coming decade? What might be your role in some of the changes?

If it is challenging to think about writing a letter, you could also approach this assignment by imagining that a KU student has reached out to you for advice. In their email to you, they remind you a lot of yourself circa 2019.