

Baltimore in the Future Tense
Developing Educational Materials
By Tom Riley

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1. Summary:

Clearly educating our children in good ways to address the problems of the 21st Century should be a priority. Our Baltimore in the Future Tense projects contains a number of new ideas and new approaches that need to be taught. That said, actually using these ideas in the classroom will require the development of specific educational materials.

This paper proposes the development of such materials and announces a \$500.00 budget for the first stage of their development.

2. Big Picture:

For millions of years, modern humans set around the evening fire and told stories of what we would do tomorrow. The next day we got in action together and did what we had envisioned. This process is now known to be a function of language and a number of our brain modules have evolved to directly support it. And, it is still how you get people into effective action.

At present that fire has morphed into movies and television but we have lost our way. We have few images of people in effective action on real problems; our evening fire is totally over run with destructive nonsense.

At this moment we are facing some of the great challenges in human history (Global Warming is just one example) and we need all our people to get in action and stay in action.

To face this problem with effective action, we need fireside stories of believable people facing grave, but realistic, problems bravely.

First, this requires that technical people define what the grave problems are as precisely as physically possible. For example, Baltimore is a port on the sea. We need the best possible estimate, with error bars, of the sea level for the next 100 years. A dozen such graphs on key problems can then define a Field of Our Future in which our stories can be told.

Second the humanities need to take this Field and tell the stories of people in forward action. If it is brave action against long odds, so much the better. Any media can be used but at some point there must be at least a little language.

3. Educational Materials Development:

From an education stand point, clearly we are proposing a two towers, one STEM and one Humanities, with a bridge of stories between them. The education people that I have talked to, think this is certainly possible but it has to be formatted to suit present classroom requirements.

The STEM must talk to the Humanities for either to have direction.

We need ideas on how to do this to move forward. I would value your input on this specific point.

4. Budget:

We currently have seed money of \$500.00 for the development of the first materials. This is clearly **not** enough money to develop complete materials but it should support an honest start.

For this money we will need:

1. An outline of proposed materials to direct farther development
2. Introductory materials for our Web site
3. A discussion of how this material could be used under current classroom requirements such as the Common Core Curriculum

The material must be deep enough to show we are serious about full development of practical educational materials.

5. Contact:

Let me hear from you, particularly if you have experience in writing such materials and could use the money.

Enjoy,
Tom Riley
Baltimore in the Future Tense"

<http://bigmoondig.com/Essays/BaltFuture.html#DivBalt>