



PRESENTER

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Background

Young adults are starting to take mature roles in society, using their agency in the marketplace, the polling booth, and in civil society at large to prevent and prepare for societal challenges ahead. Their attitudes and **beliefs about the future** – what it will look like and how to shape it – will guide many actions today.

Methods

With an in-person survey of U.S. undergraduates (N = 193), we asked participants to describe the **best, worst, and most likely futures** for the US in 2050 or 2100, **what would have to happen** to get to those futures, and what about the future gave them **hope, despair, and inspiration** to make the future better

Coding identified 73 response themes

Discussion

Environmental sustainability, technology, and social dynamics may be the best onramps for conversations about the future with young adults.

Notably, **waste** was a more salient environmental term for our participants than **climate change**.

The state of the environment is the top cue young adults use to distinguish good and bad futures

