Building Your Predictions

You will be making two predictions about the future. One will be at least five years from now and will deal with a global issue. The other will be at least one year from now and will deal with a local issue. For each prediction, include the current year, the year we will know if your prediction came true, and arguments for your prediction based on a theory of how the world will proceed. Here are two examples.

Current year: 2016.
Prediction: By the end of the year 2019, all veterans in our city will have access to housing.
Argument for this prediction: In late 2014, our mayor introduced an initiative to house 365 homeless veterans in the coming year - one for each day. In fact, they housed 404 formerly homeless veterans in 2015, surpassing their goal. 1374 veterans had experienced homeless in our county in 2014, so in 2015 alone over a quarter of our homeless veterans were housed. I predict that momentum will build around this successful initiative, especially given our current climate of patriotic support for veterans.

Current year: 2016
Prediction: By 3016, at least 90% of the United States population will speak more than one language fluently.
Argument for this prediction: Our government is increasingly recognizing the importance of second language fluency when dealing with foreign governments and multinational businesses. Language planners point out that immigrants to the United States who speak the language of their home country can be a tremendous asset to our country, as can their children if they grow up bilingual and bicultural. More support will be given to support heritage language speakers. As the number of multilingual people in the United States grows, people learning their languages as a second language will have access to more and more qualified teachers and conversation partners, leading to more multilingualism among people who speak English as their first language. Immersion schools, especially dual language immersion schools, will accelerate this effect. Finally, indigenous communities in the United States will continue to use methods that have only recently been shown to be effective, such as language nests and master-apprentice programs, to revitalize their indigenous languages. The net effect will be a majority multilingual population in this country.

Now it's your turn. Start with a prediction of something that will happen in your local school or community, at least one year from now.

Current year:
Prediction:

Argument for this prediction:

Now think globally and more long-term. What prediction do you make for the world at least five years from now?

Current year:
Prediction:

Argument for this prediction:

Get feedback from your classmates and teacher on your prediction. When you are ready, your teacher will give you two presentation templates (one for each prediction) to fill out (top part only) and display for your classmates.