

The Merlin Principal

Exercise in reverse planning

Merlin the Magician counseled King Arthur because he knew what was going to happen next since was living his life backward. Like Merlin, you too can “REMEMBER THE FUTURE!”

1. Invent a goal you'd be thrilled to realize in your life 5 years from now. Something that lights you up. Something you want to be, do, or have. Write it down.

2. Describe the way life is for you with this goal fulfilled and all components and success criteria completed.

3. Moving backward in time, describe each step that occurred to produce the fulfilled goal. Look for roadblocks for each of these steps and ways to overcome them.

a. What steps have been accomplished 4.5 years from now

b. 4 years from now

c. 3 years from now

d. 1 year from now

e. Six months from now

f. Tomorrow

You now have a roadmap of toward your invented future. Remember the future and live the life of your invention!

Exceptional leaders cultivate the Merlin-like habit of acting in the present moment as ambassadors of a radically different future, in order to imbue their organizations with a breakthrough vision of what is possible to achieve.