

Technology Assessment Assignment

ESD.85J Fall 2005

Each of the following readings will be assigned to one student. Come to class prepared to lead a presentation (5 min present, 5 min discuss) with this outline.

- Overview of Reading
- Method Used for Tech Assessment/Forecasting
- What they got Right
- What they got Wrong
- What they Missed
- What could they have done to improve their assessment?

1) OTA Reports (published online at <http://www.wws.princeton.edu/ota/>)

- a. *Ballistic Missile Defense Technologies*. September 1985.
(scenario analysis)
- b. *Computer-Based National Information Systems: Technology and Public Policy Issues*. September 1981.
- c. *Nuclear Power in an Age of Uncertainty*. February 1984
(trend extrapolation, stakeholder analysis)

2) Delphi

Cuhls, K., and T. Kuwahara. *Outlook for Japanese and German Future Technology: Comparing Japanese and German Technology Forecast Surveys* (NISTEP Report #33). Heidelberg, Germany: Physica-Verlag, 1994. ISBN: 3790808008.

3) System Dynamics

Meadows, D., D. H. Meadows and J. R. Meadows. *The Limits to Growth*. White River Junction, VT: Chelsea Green Publishing, 2004. ISBN: 193149858X

4) Science Fiction

Huxley, A. *Brave New World*. New York, NY: Knopf, 2004. ISBN: 0099477467.

5) Trend Extrapolation

Kurzweil, R. *The Age of Spiritual Machines*. New York, NY: Penguin, 2000. ISBN: 0140282025.