Level
Grades 2 - 5

Learning Goals
Examining life now and predicting what it will be like in the future.
Understanding the long timescales involved in space travel.

National Science Education Standards
Standard E: Abilities of Technological Design

National Council of Teachers of English Standards
Standard 5: Use the writing process to communicate with an audience
Standard 8: Use a variety of technological and information resources to gather and synthesize information and to create and communicate knowledge

Materials per class:
Several newspapers
Access to computer with internet connection or information from internet gathered by teacher or student beforehand

Materials per student:
Pencil and Markers
Student Activity Sheets
Scissors
Empty paper towel roll
Wrapping paper
String or ribbon

Teacher Overview
1. Students will be completing information about them currently and then writing a paragraph about themselves and a technological invention they envision in the future.

2. For the information in the present, students are asked to write down personal information and refer to a newspaper to find a headline from today.
3. For the information in the future, students will need to know the year in which New Horizons will fly past Pluto. This will be the future date they will be writing about. To determine when this date will be, refer to the New Horizons website at http://pluto.jhuapl.edu. You may want to do this in advance or together as a class.

4. Use this as an opportunity to talk about how distant Pluto is by realizing how long it takes to get there. You may also want to brainstorm with the class about technological items that they might envision.