AUTHENTIC ASSESSMENT

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Characteristics of FPS participants in the 21st Century:
- Futuristic Thinkers
- Effective Problem Solvers
- Collaborative Team Members
- Diverse Thinkers
- Analytical Researchers
- Expert Innovators
- Ethical Leaders
- Global Citizens

GLOBAL CELEBRATION

The Future Problem Solving International Conference (IC) features fun, friendship, competition, exploration, and celebration. Annually the top teams and individuals in FPS Affiliate Programs and Mentored Regions are invited to attend. Hosted on the campus of a prominent university, over 2000 participants gather to vie for the title of international champion in each component. Students leave the conference with friends and memories that last a lifetime.

FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING

Over forty Affiliate Programs serve students throughout Australia, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Portugal, Singapore, United Kingdom, and the United States. A mentoring program is available to areas without an established Affiliate Program.
FPS is a dynamic international program involving hundreds of thousands of students annually from around the world. Developed in 1974 by creativity pioneer Dr. E. Paul Torrance, Future Problem Solving (FPS) provides competitive and non-competitive components for today’s curriculum via a six-step model which teaches critical and creative thinking, problem solving, and decision making.

The Future Problem Solving six-step model:
1. Identify challenges related to the topic or Future Scene
2. Select an Underlying Problem
3. Generate and select criteria to evaluate solution ideas
4. Produce solution ideas to the Underlying Problem
5. Evaluate solution ideas
6. Develop an Action Plan

GLOBAL ISSUES PROBLEM SOLVING (GIPS), available for individuals or teams, teaches students how to think creatively about the future. GIPS can be used as curriculum, integrated into content areas, or offered as an extra-curricular option as students research the annual topics. Students vote to determine the five annual topics from three strands – science/technology, business/economics, and social/political issues. Recent topics include issues such as ocean soup, land transportation, megacities, enhancing technological issues.

GLOBAL ISSUES PROBLEM SOLVING (GIPS) teaches students how to think, not what to think.

COMMUNITY PROBLEM SOLVING (CmPS) encourages students to become agents of change and engages students in their communities. Students explore an existing problem of interest in the school, community, region, or world. Community Problem Solving is a vehicle for service learning through the problem solving process.

Students in both team and individual Community Problem Solving apply problem solving strategies and skills to real-world concerns. Community Problem Solving teams can be composed of as few as two or three students or as large as an entire class or group. Projects may focus on categories such as Civic and Cultural Issues, Education, Environment, Health Concerns, and Human Services.

Community Problem Solving bridges the gap between school and the real world. A junior division team of fourth and fifth grade students from East Orange, New Jersey was aware of the attraction and dangers of gang membership. The team, PEGASUS (Peers Educating Gang Awareness: Stopping Unnecessary Suffering) knew gangs gave one a sense of belonging and security. They discovered the hours between 3 PM and 6 PM were the most tempting for gang involvement. As an alternative, PEGASUS engaged students in “caring and productive” after school activities. Not only did they communicate the problems of gang involvement to elementary children in their community, the students created gang awareness banners, bulletin boards, an oath, sign, and flag as daily reminders against gangs. CmPS team members were also involved in educating the school’s parents about the dangers of gang membership.

SCENARIO PERFORMANCE (ScP) encourages students to enlarge, enrich, and make more accurate images of the future. Individuals develop creative and futuristic story ideas, set at least 20 years in the future, based on one of the five annual FPS topics. Students perform their story orally, without the aid of props, in a traditional storytelling manner.

SCENARIO WRITING (SW) inspires students to develop and submit futuristic scenarios that might take place as a logical outgrowth of actions or events. An FPS scenario is a story based on one of the annual topics in which one possible outcome of the future is developed through character(s) and plot. Scenario writing is especially intriguing for students who enjoy creative writing.

As Edward Cornish of the World Future Society explains: “A scenario may sound exotic. ... It is simply a series of events that we imagine happening in the future. Our everyday thinking is filled with little ventures into the mysterious world of tomorrow, or next week, or next year. And these ventures are scenarios.”

ACTION-BASED PROBLEM SOLVING (AbPS) is non-competitive and open to students in the levels equivalent to US grades K-9. Using the creative problem solving process with fairy tales and current age-appropriate problems, AbPS scaffolds higher-level learning and thinking skills in a hands-on, non-threatening manner. Action-based Problem Solving actively engages students in learning, constructing meaning, and applying both knowledge and process to real-life situations.

Action-based Problem Solving provides a model that is effective in all classrooms or with student groups and can be implemented in various situations.
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COMPONENTS

FPS provides components to fit the various needs of the students in the 21st Century. This interdisciplinary program promotes skills to overcome obstacles or barriers when confronting challenges and developing solutions to social, political, scientific, economic, and technological issues. FPS promotes interpersonal communication, ethical leadership, and responsible group membership through its various components.

In Affiliate Programs and Mentored Regions, competitive components are offered to students in the equivalent of US grades 4-12:
- Junior (grades 4-6)
- Middle (grades 7-9)
- Senior (grades 10-12)

*Adult (beyond high school for Global Issues Problem Solving)

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Students research a topic to gather background information, become mini-experts in the topic, and predict possibilities for the future. Students receive a Future Scene, an imagined scenario based on the topic 20 to 40 years in the future, and use their research as they apply the six-step FPS model. FPS coaches are encouraged to introduce a variety of generating and focusing guidelines along with creative and critical thinking tools. These creative problem solving tools and guidelines provide students with options to generate creative possibilities and to focus on effective solutions and innovation.

FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING TEACHES STUDENTS HOW TO THINK, NOT WHAT TO THINK.

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DESIGNED TO HELP STUDENTS EXPLORE, ENLARGE, AND ENRICH THEIR IMAGES OF THE FUTURE, FPS ENGAGES STUDENTS IN LEARNING.

Open the doors of imagination and creative thinking for your students. Contact Future Problem Solving Program today.

mail@fpspi.org | www.fpspi.org

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Future Problem Solving Program International is a 501(c)3 nonprofit tax-exempt educational organization.

Mission Statement

To develop the ability of young people globally to design and promote positive futures through problem solving using critical and creative thinking.

"The most basic skill that can be taught in today’s schools is problem solving, especially skills in solving future problems...”

(Dr. E. Paul Torrance, Creator of FPS in 1974)