

PARENT PERSPECTIVES

This issue of *Parent Perspectives* is a collection of testimonials from a coach in Turkey and an alumnus from Kentucky. These are just a few examples of the life-changing experiences that Future Problem Solving can provide!
Please Enjoy!



“The genius of the future will be the creative mind adapting itself to the shape of things to come.” ~ E. Paul Torrance

A note from the Editors:

We hope you enjoy this issue! We always find the testimonials so powerful that we share as many as we get. We typically do not change them at all and share them with you as they are submitted.

We are always looking for more testimonials! We especially love hearing how our FPS-ers apply their problem solving skills in their college, adult, and professional lives.

We look forward to many more stories of FPS.

You may submit a testimonial any time during the year to dwoyth@gmail.com or brad@fpspi.org.

Did You Know?

- The FPS Program was established in 1974 by Dr. E. Paul Torrance and his wife, Pansy.
- It is estimated that over 250,000 students across the globe participate in FPS in some way.
- There are currently 41 Affiliates and 15+ Mentored Regions in the FPSPi global network.
- FPS offers activities and events for participants in Kindergarden to Adults.
- YOU can vote on competition topics by going to the website www.fpspi.org



Coach Fatma Esin teaching about the FPS Category List.

We make choices.

My best one was my enrollment in the Turkish Future Problem Solving/ Mentored Region Program, in 2012. The Program generously opened its doors to me and both my personal and institutional connections. We all have been enjoying the wonders of the program ever since. My adventure which had started as an FPS mother went on as a CmPS, Scenario Writing, Scenario Performance and GIPS coach. This year I have been experiencing the evaluator and board member responsibility.

The essence of FPS program, to my view, is that all dynamics concerned are supposed to contribute to the development of a POSITIVE PERCEPTION of the future in the minds of all participants. In this very respect, training of coaches counts primarily earnest.

What framework of the future is expected to project is meliorism (the belief that the world can be made better by human effort) rather than disenchantment. The idea here does not mean to promote being “eyes-wide-shut” to the concreteness of the rational stuff going on. On the contrary, the heart of the program keeps participants alert to a degree of tentativeness and recommends to be “eyes-wide-open” to all sides of the issues. This is what the Category List counts for, basically.

I was given a chance of explaining this crucial aspect of FPSPI to a group of highly motivated Turkish teachers on 11th of November. Within the course of a symposium “The Learning Symphony” hosted by Private Çevre Schools in İstanbul, I had the precious opportunity to share a compact summary of the Program whose backbone rests on thinking skills while underlying the importance of the element of positiveness when teaching those skills to students.

Disillusioned by a negative perception of the future, it seems almost impossible for those fresh brains to be hopeful for tomorrow. This, in return, would bring the risk to “throw in the towel,” rather than working for the design of a better future for humanity.

Problems are inevitable, and we, FPS coaches, should believe that creative solutions come out of innovative minds fed by/with the power of the positive thinking.

Off we go, then !!



Fatma is a coach/evaluator/board member in the Mentored Region of Turkey. This region is mentored by



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

DREW TRIMBLE

ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, EASTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY



Few things have positively impacted my life like Future Problem Solving. For about 20 years I have been involved in FPS as either a competitor, evaluator, trainer, or coach. During that time, the teammates, coaches, students, and evaluators that I have met in FPS have become great friends and influential mentors. FPS planted in me the seed of a life-long interest in wrestling with the big, long-term societal issues that affect real people. And that is what I get to do everyday. The FPS process and the outstanding coaches who invested so much time and effort to teach it to me equipped me with the research, critical thinking, and persuasive writing skills that have given me an advantage in my educational and professional career. While winning isn't everything, of course, it is difficult to overstate how meaningful it was for this little kid, from a small, economically disadvantaged town in eastern Kentucky to work very hard and leave a competition as an International Champion. It gave me confidence that I could compete with anyone. For that, and all of these reasons, I am grateful for the impact FPS has had on my life.

AFFILIATE PROGRAM

- Kentucky Association for Academic Competition
- United States of America

FPS HISTORY

- State FPS Champion: 2000, 2005
- International Senior Division Champion: 2002, 2005
- Coach: 2012-2016
 - State Champs: 2013, 2014
 - IC Senior Division: 4th 2012, 3rd 2014, Champions 2016
- IC Evaluator: 2010-2012
- State Evaluator: 2005 – present
- State Trainer: 2009 – present

EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Political Science, University of Kentucky (2009)
- Juris Doctorate, University of Kentucky (2012)