

Coach Responsibilities

PLEASE REVIEW CAREFULLY PRIOR TO BEGINNING WORK WITH STUDENTS

In every FPS topic, there are large areas of research information that are appropriate for all ages. However, in some topics, there are areas that are more controversial, or sensitive, which may not be appropriate for younger students, especially juniors. It is the responsibility of the Coach to preview and monitor materials for age appropriateness, and to work with parents to ensure their support for the materials that students use.

Suggestions for Involving Parents with Future Problem Solving

1. **Overview for parents:** Consider holding a meeting for the parents of your team members early in the year. At that time, you can explain the 6- step process, discuss the topics for the year, and invite parents to research along with their children. You may be able to piggyback on “Back to School” nights or Open House.
2. **Clarify the components:** If you will be using more than one component of FPS (Global Issues, Scenario Writing, Scenario Performance, Community Problem Solving), be certain that students and parents understand the differences between each component.
3. **Clarify program viewpoints:** Let parents know that the focus of FPS is on the process, and on teaching students *how* to think, not *what* to think. Explain that the program does not support any particular viewpoint on a topic or issue. Share statements from the front of FPSPI’s “Readings, Research and Resources” that explain the FPSP position on this.
4. **Clarify the topics for the year:** Be sure that parents know what topics are being studied. If there are any areas of topics that might be more sensitive, let parents know how you plan to handle those areas. In this case, you may want to get signed parent permission for students to research the topics. You can assure parents that the Future Scenes will be age appropriate for all students.
5. **Establish a format for communication:** Let parents know how to contact you should they have any questions or concerns about topics or research. Invite them to review FPSPI’s “Readings, Research and Resources” if you use it.
6. **Partners in research:** Encourage parents to become partners in research with their children. Develop specific activities or sharing formats for student-parent teams. Find a way to reward joint efforts.

7. **Internet research:** Carefully monitor any Internet research that students do under your supervision, and alert parents to monitor their children's Internet activities at home.
8. **“Parent Perspective” Newsletter:** Encourage your parents to sign up for the FPSP International newsletter at FPSPI.org.
9. **Local speakers:** Invite parents to help you locate and arrange for local speakers on the topics of study. Invite all parents to attend these special presentations.
10. **Invite parents in:** Invite parents to observe your work sessions with students. Once students understand the problem solving process, invite parents to join the students in solving a “mini-scene.” Allow only 5-10 minutes for each step so that the process is completed in an hour or so. Eliminate the formal writing and just do the brainstorming parts. Invite parents to an Awareness Workshop or Coach/Evaluator Training so they can learn about the process and become involved participants.
11. **Attend Coach and Evaluator Trainings:** Trainings are offered throughout the year so that coaches can learn the creative problem solving process, the Future Problem Solving Program, and the evaluation procedure. A well-trained coach is able to provide the necessary elements for successful problem solving. A proficient evaluator becomes a better coach.
12. **Obtain necessary materials to enrich your program:** The Future Problem Solving Program International Office provides multiple books and tools for use in the classroom. Please visit FPSPIMart.org for material and ordering information.
13. **Permission for Affiliate (State) or International Competition study:** Affiliate Competition topics may be more challenging than the practice topics. If your team qualifies for the Affiliate Competition, inform parents immediately about the topic. If necessary, you may want written permission for students to study for the topic. Use the same process for teams that qualify for the International Conference.
14. **Participate in evaluation:** Even if your team does not qualify for the Affiliate (State) Competition, each certified Evaluator may register an Individual and a Multi-School competitor OR two Multi- School competitors. This is a very good way for students to learn more and become excited about the program.

Above all, share your enthusiasm for Future Problem Solving!