

# The Future Scene

**Validity of the Future Scene:** The Future Scene is a one-page scenario that describes a hypothetical situation set in the future that is related to the study topic for that problem. The Future Scene is based on current information that is extrapolated into the future. Where information may be found to dispute or contradict the information presented in the Future Scene, the teams are still expected to work within the boundaries of the given situation as described. In other words, accept the facts as presented in the Future Scene.

**Relating the Problem Solving Booklet to the Future Scene:** All work in the written problem solving booklet should address the situation as described in the Future Scene. The booklet should be based on the Future Scene Directive. This directive tells the students specifically what they are being asked to help solve, and is usually in the last paragraph of the Future Scene. The background knowledge that students gain through research on the topic of study serves as a basis to help them understand and think about the Future Scene. Students sometimes write the booklet about their research instead of about the Future Scene. Guidance from the coach may be needed to help them see the difference.

**Use of Appropriate Future Scene:** For each problem, there is a **Junior** Future Scene and a **Middle/Senior** Future Scene. Teams must use the Future Scene designated for their level. For the first two Practice Problems, the Future Scenes can be read at any time. For the Qualifying Problem, teams and coaches cannot see the Future Scene until time to write the booklets.

**How Can You Improve Your Students' Ability to Understand the Future Scenes?** The first step is to help students gain a firm grasp of the topic. For example, in the 2002 topic on E-Commerce, students needed to understand what a website is, the concept of E-Commerce, and all the terms within the world of commerce, including how they are correctly used. This is often a tall order! To enhance research, FPSPI's **Suggested Readings** are now available at [FPSPI.org/topics.html](http://FPSPI.org/topics.html). Another way is to discuss the importance of a careful reading of the Future Scene, and to practice with old Future Scenes. Try some ideas from the list below.

## **After Reading a Future Scene, Ask Students To:**

- Identify the main idea of the whole scene, and/or the main idea of each paragraph. (Often, there is an Underlying Problem idea in each paragraph.)
- Diagram or “map” the scene, or a paragraph, including as much information as possible.
- Read a paragraph out loud and create true/false questions about it.
- Identify the Future Scene parameters of time, place, and topic.
- Identify several key issues in the scene.
- Say whether an assumption that the teacher or research states is or is not supported by the statements in the Future Scene.
- Restate what the “charge” or “directive” is from the final paragraph.