

## Action-based Problem Solving Overview

### What is Action-based Problem Solving?

AbPS is Future Problem Solving Program International's (FPSPI) problem-solving component designed for use with lower elementary students as a precursor for our other components. AbPS introduces the coach and students to creative problem solving, higher-level thinking, and action skills in a collaborative, non-threatening manner. AbPS actively engages all students in learning, constructing meaning, and applying both knowledge and process to real-life situations.

The concepts behind each problem-solving step are taught in short, challenging lessons, making the concepts easy to understand and apply. It can be implemented as a strategy for use in the inclusion model, curriculum in exploratory classes, an extension of any curriculum unit, and as a model to introduce higher level thinking skills to students.

### Why Action-based Problem Solving?

**AbPS includes activities designed to stimulate the creative and critical thinking skills younger students need to synthesize the massive amount of data faced daily. AbPS facilitates discovery by presenting the students with perplexing issues and providing the means to become active inquirers. AbPS provides students with the procedural, brainstorming, decision-making, and communication strategies needed for learning. The hands-on model turns the classroom into an authentic learning community, bridging the gap between school and the real world. Students learn to work cooperatively toward a common goal, discovering how to manage time as well as the project. They begin to see a purpose for their education and develop a personal commitment to learning.**

### Who can participate in Action-based Problem Solving?

Students may participate in AbPS at any age, but it is recommended for grades 2 and up.

Teams are comprised of a minimum of four students and may include up to an entire class of students. Team composition may vary from problem to problem or as the year progresses and students become more confident. Often, coaches model the six step process and complete collaboratively with students at the beginning and foster independence as students gain experience.

### How can I get started with my students?

The best way to become acquainted with Action-based Problem Solving is to read the Coach Information file; FPSPI also offers materials for purchase on our store [here for grades K-3](#) and [here for grades 3-9](#) (or equivalent).

Action-based Problem Solving can be used as a stand-alone activity by an FPS coach, a teacher, a parent, or any instructor with students interested in problem solving and critical thinking. Students who are enthusiastic about AbPS may want to continue by competing in Global Issues Problem Solving, Community Problem Solving, Scenario Writing, or Scenario Performance. For more information about competitive components, visit [FPSPI's website](#).



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### How does Action-based Problem Solving work?

As a group, students experience the problem-solving process without requirements of competition or specific formatting. It is the intent of their ideas that is considered for feedback and development.



### How does student work get feedback?

AbPS booklets are scored by trained evaluators who carefully read and assess the written booklets. Some Affiliate Programs require that all coaches receive evaluation training and participate as evaluators. If yours does not, serving as an evaluator is highly recommended and always improves coaching skills!

In order to receive feedback, register with your Affiliate.

### How do I register students for Action-based Problem Solving?

Email [adflfps@gmail.com](mailto:adflfps@gmail.com)!

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