

# Global Issues Problem Solving Overview



## What is Global Issues Problem Solving?

The purpose of Global Issues Problem Solving (GIPS) is to facilitate students' ability to design and achieve positive futures using an authentic creative problem solving model. GIPS is a competitive component of Future Problem Solving Program International (FPSPI). It is a team or individual activity in which participants research a series of global topics and learn the six-step Creative Problem Solving Process (see below). In competition, participants apply their knowledge and the problem solving process to address an imagined situation set in the future, called a "Future Scene." From there, they complete a "booklet" (paper or virtual) that asks them to use the process to solve a major issue in the Future Scene.



## Why Global Issues Problem Solving?

FPSPI's Global Issues Problem Solving component provides the tools and strategies students need to face the challenges of today and the future. Students complete in-depth research about topics of global importance, then learn to systematically address topic-related complex situations. Through GIPS, students gain the skills to not only create solutions to difficult problems, but how to evaluate those solutions and then turn them into a workable plan of action.

Students involved in GIPS practice powerful problem-solving skills that engage their critical and creative thinking. Participants improve their communication skills through collaboration with teammates, and learn to write clearly and concisely with a specific focus. The 4Cs – collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creative thinking are infused into GIPS.

## What are the Annual Topics?

Topics for the Future Scenes include global issues in the areas of business & economics, science & technology, and social & political. Each year five topics are addressed: two Practice Problems, a Qualifying Problem, an Affiliate Bowl/Final problem, and the problem at the International Conference. Current topics are listed in the *Global Issues Problem Solving 2023-24 Competition Season* document, and full descriptions of these topics can be found on our [website](#).

Recent Science & Technology Topics	Recent Business & Economics Topics	Recent Social & Political Topics
Agriculture	The Global Workplace	Coping with Stress
Alternative Energy	Environmental Law	The Impact of Social Media
Artificial Intelligence	Philanthrocapitalism	Criminal Justice Systems
Biosecurity	Freedom of Speech	Rage and Bullying
Cyber Conflict	International Travel	
Nanotechnology	Intellectual Property	

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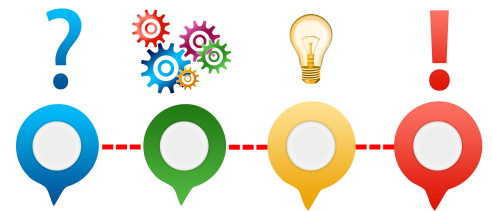
## Does FPS have to be done in the classroom?

While many coaches utilize classroom time for FPS, others use it in an after-school enrichment setting, or coach wholly online. Some groups participate as non-school affiliated clubs in their community. Parents, teachers, administrators, retirees – if you are interested in helping students to achieve their goals, and become better prepared for the future, then you can be a coach.

## Who can participate in Global Issues Problem Solving?

Competitors may participate in Global Issues Problem Solving in four divisions (equivalent to grade levels of the USA):

- Junior (grades 4-6; team or individual)
- Middle (grades 7-9; team or individual)
- Senior (grades 10-12; team or individual)



## How can I get started with my students?

Training in the problem solving process is essential for Global Issues Problem Solving coaches. Affiliate Programs often schedule workshops in the problem solving process – check your Affiliate Program’s website for specifics. If you are not able to attend a workshop, you can find many valuable resources at [fspimart.org](http://fspimart.org). The *Coaching Tips* document highlights specific methods for working with students.

### ***Global Issues Problem Solving Registration***

Information about GIPS team and Individual registration will be included in your enrollment package.

Team Fees: \$110 for each team of 4 students

Individual Fee: \$75

Plus district fees as determined by your district to cover costs of district competitions and/or awards.

**All registered GIPS Teams will need a certified GIPS Evaluator & Monitor throughout the year.**

#### **Affiliate Competition**

March 10-13th in Orlando, Florida. Students will be invited based on their performance at their District Competitions, which will be completed before 2/9/2024.

#### **International Competition**

Champion GIPS teams and individuals in each division at the Affiliate level are eligible to compete at the annual International Conference (IC) each June. Future Scenes at IC are based on the topic of the conference, which is announced on March 1 each year.