Year 41, No. 5

Washington FPS

FROM THE AD'S DESK
NOVEMBER 2019

Fairhaven Middle School students at State Bowl 2019 ready for the GIPS competition

Tyee Middle School students ready to compete at the 2019 State Bowl

Hello Coaches,

If everything goes acording to plan, you should have received your evaluation results from the first practice problem, International Travel, and you are busy preparing your students for the second practice problem on Sleep Patterns. Included in this newsletter is an abbreviated activity from the Topic Activity Unit Book that focuses on writing quality criteria for solutions to a UP using the Sleep Patterns topic.

A shout out goes to our evaluation director, Ann Foreyt, for becoming an IC certified Scenario Performance evaluator. Even though she is our first qualified evaluator, over the past few years she has guided our evaluators in the selection of top quality scenario performances. This has resulted in scenario performers from Washington State earning a number of top awards at the International Conference. Congratulations, Ann!

It is always great to see a large number of students from a wide variety of schools in the State Bowl Opening Ceremony slideshow. I encourage all of you to begin taking pictures of your FPS students, either in groups or as individuals, and sending their photos to Kari Beyer, kaldrich@nr.k12.wa.us. They can be posed shots or candid ones. Photos that demonstrate school spirit are always welcome, as well as those including the coach as many of these pictures are fun for the kids to see.

Attention Scenario Performance coaches: The Scenario Performance deadline has been changed to **February 4**.

A friendly reminder that the final day to register either a GIPS team or individual and have the second practice problem evaluated is November 13. All registrations after November 13 will be subject to a $15 late fee per team or individual.

John Buissink
Affiliate Director

509-386-6297
jbuissinkwafps@gmail.com

CRITERIA ACTIVITY. . . PAGE 2-3
SCENARIO WRITING EXAMPLES…PAGE 4-5
SCENARIO PERFORMANCE. . . PAGE 5
ACTIVITY KEY. . . PAGE 5
COST OF 2020 STATE BOWL. . . PAGE 6
CMPS NEW REQUIREMENT. . . PAGE 6

TOPIC ACTIVITY VIP CRITERIA EXAMPLE

The following abbreviated criteria activity is from the Topic Activities Unit (TAU) on Sleep Patterns (pages 34-36) (with permission from fpspi). To purchase the complete TAU, please go to fpspimart.org.

Knowing how to write criteria correctly is the first step in selecting measures to evaluate Solutions. The next step is to choose the most appropriate criteria to ensure that the idea selected is your best.

VIP CRITERIA GUIDELINES

1. Criteria must be relevant.
   - **Relevant:** A criterion appropriate for evaluating Solutions to this Underlying Problem
   - **Not Relevant:** A criterion not appropriate for evaluating Solutions to this Underlying Problem

2. There are three types of criteria and each type earns different points.

   - **Generic**: A criterion that can be applied to nearly every Underlying Problem for nearly every topic. This criterion has no details or information coming directly from the Future Scene. (A criterion is NOT modified by simply adding Future Scene parameters to it.) For example: Which Solution is cheapest in the year 2040 and beyond? (A generic criterion receives 1 point.)

   - **Modified**: A criterion with adequate details, such as important stakeholders, to place it firmly within the Underlying Problem and/or Future Scene. For example: Which Solution will be most acceptable to those who suffer from inadequate sleep patterns? (Modified criteria receive 2 points.)

   - **Advanced**: There are three types of advanced criteria. (Advanced criteria receive 3 points.)
     Justified: A generic criterion that gives a condition from the Future Scene or Relevant research as a rationale for its use. The justification must have a logical connection to the criterion. For example: Because less than 9% of teens get enough sleep, which Solution will provide teens with the most accurate information about the importance of healthy Sleep Patterns?
     Specific: A criterion whose core idea can only be applied more narrowly to this Underlying Problem, this Future Scene, and/or this topic, or other closely related topics, but not to a wide variety of areas. For example: Which Solution will best decrease the number of teens affected by sleep deprivation?
     UP-based: A criterion based on ideas from the UP, either the Key Verb Phrase or the Purpose. If the UP were: Because inadequate sleep can trigger our innate stress response, how might we create an awareness of the importance of healthy Sleep Patterns so that fewer negative consequences affect people around the world in 2040?

Example: UP-based on the KVP – Which Solution best creates an awareness of the importance of healthy Sleep Patterns?

Example: UP-based on the Purpose - Which Solution will reduce the most negative consequences of inadequate sleep affecting people around the world?

Continued on the next page.

Just as VIP neurons are master keys of the body's clock, VIP criteria are master keys that serve as gauges/ yardsticks to measure the creative potential/importance of Solutions as well as their comparative quality.

CRITERIA CONTROLS

1. Only one concern/dimension is considered with each criterion.
   a. Consider what you are measuring. (Cost, acceptance, etc.)
   b. Avoid the use of "and" in a criterion.

2. Superlatives, "-st" words (e.g. least, most, greatest, fewest, etc.), are written into each criterion.
   a. Which Solution idea is the easiest to implement?
   b. Which Solution idea provides the greatest social benefit?

3. Each criterion is phrased to indicate a desired direction.
   a. Which Solution idea is the easiest to implement? instead of, Which Solution idea is the hardest to implement?
   b. Which Solution idea provides the greatest social benefit? Instead of, Which Solution idea provides the greatest social harm?

4. Must be written as a question.

Because inadequate sleep can trigger our innate stress response, how might we create an awareness of the importance of healthy Sleep Patterns so that fewer negative consequences affect people around the world in 2040?

Directions: Determine if each criterion below is Relevant to the UP and if it complies with the four criteria controls listed above. Complete the chart for each criterion.

Which will most successfully create an awareness of the importance of healthy Sleep Patterns?
UP Relevant: (underline one) Yes or No Complies with Criteria Controls: Yes __ No __ **Underline Control(s) Violated: 1 2 3 4**
Which Solution will prevent poor sleepers from experiencing the negative consequences of sleep deprivation and help them sleep better at night?
UP Relevant: (underline one) Yes or No Complies with Criteria Controls: Yes __ No __ **Underline Control(s) Violated: 1 2 3 4**
Which Solution provides the best protection against sleep deprivation?
UP Relevant: (underline one) Yes or No Complies with Criteria Controls: Yes __ No __ **Underline Control(s) Violated: 1 2 3 4**
Which Solution will best decrease the negative consequences of inadequate Sleep Patterns?
UP Relevant: (underline one) Yes or No Complies with Criteria Controls: Yes __ No __ **Underline Control(s) Violated: 1 2 3 4**
Which Solution provides the least protection against sleep deprivation?
UP Relevant: (underline one) Yes or No Complies with Criteria Controls: Yes __ No __ **Underline Control(s) Violated: 1 2 3 4**

The key to this example is on page 5.

SCENARIO WRITING EXAMPLES

Scenario Writing is an individual competition in which students develop short stories related to one of the five FPS topics for the year. The story (1500 words or less) is set at least 20 years in the future and is an imagined, but logical, outcome of actions or events taking place in the world.

Why Scenario Writing?

To prepare students for the challenges of the 21st century, Future Problem Solving Program International teaches students to think critically, creatively, and futuristically. The Scenario Writing component of FPSPI strives to help students enlarge, enrich, and make more accurate their images of the future, while honing their creative writing skills. Scenario Writing personalizes the ever-growing perspective a student has on the future. In addition, participation provides opportunities for students to meet and exceed educational standards as they refine their writing skills. A rubric-based authentic evaluation is provided, giving students tools for continuous growth.

An excerpt from the 1st place junior division 2019 Scenario, An Illusion …, written by Vishnu Mangipudi, Independent

With the latest 4D spectroscopic laser sail technology, our crew will reach Kepler73E12B in only 6 years. As we wave goodbye to Earth, our ship headed into the dark, barren, interstellar medium, I take one last wistful glance at the planet we once called home, feeling the agony of its inhabitants, the mistakes we tried to fix, and the ones which destroyed us all...

The ones that destroyed my family. I start to feel myself tearing up at the memory of my daughter and my wife. They both died of SO_3 poisoning 6 months ago in my home. Our house's filtration system broke down while I was away, and by the time I returned home, it was already too late. The contaminated air seeped into our home, killing them. I start to shake, but try as I might, I can't suppress my grief.

"When you're ready," the Flight Engineer calls from the back. Ignoring the surge of emotions coursing through me, I hit the red button with all of my might. The throttle burns at full speed, and our mission to save humanity starts. As we race past the heliopause, I start to wonder if I will ever find home again.

An excerpt from the 1st place middle division 2019 Scenario, So Much for Hope, written by Prisha Hemani, Odle Middle School

The AI, or specifically CrimeJudge4.0 held the most power in this court. I was just there to announce the court proceedings and perform the tasks of a co-judge. CrimeJudge4.0 could analyze and process the most complex of information, creating a strong and justifiable decision based on the cold, hard facts. It was incredibly accurate. The AI's judgement was almost always followed:

Rule 132.5.6:

A judge may only question, challenge, or overrule the judgement of the central AI if the error margin given is at least 1%. The error margin, or EM is the probability that the ruling is wrong.

A shrill beeping tore through my thoughts, bringing me back to reality and notifying me it was time for the case. I had been working with the law and the AI for years, and I could immediately tell this case would be interesting. It would take place in a Virtual Reality world. Walking to the nearest VR station, I slide on the sleek black headset and squeeze my eyes shut as everything drips into inky unconsciousness.

This is what always happens. I could feel my reality, my consciousness swirling into somewhere else, my whole physical form dissolving and materializing into another dimension. As I arrive, I notice that the VR room decor is ostentatious, with waves of velvet covering practically every corner of the room and elaborate gold engravings decorating every surface. The chairs were large mahogany seats with plush and warm velvet cushions. I stared at the rows of people sitting in front of me, each donning identical black smart suits. I spot the accused- a young mother with long butterscotch hair and doe-brown eyes, now puffy and wet with tears. She seemed to jump with surprise when an alarm rang, signifying the start of the case.

Continued next page

Continued from previous page

An excerpt from the 1st place senior division 2019 Scenario, Unwinding, written by Rachel Chen, Interlake High School

Imagine a kite soaring gently in the wind.

The cool female voice reverberates around me, precisely engineered to be soothing—soft and melodic, unneeded encouragement to drift into sleep. Behind my closed eyelids, an image of a pale blue kite appears, twisting and turning softly across a cloudless meadow. I know it's merely a vision projected into my mind through signals that target the optical cortex, but as a slow breeze from the hidden vents begins caressing my skin, I can almost believe the scene is real.

I remember: an actual gust of wind against my face, wildflowers beneath my bare feet, my brother's laughter filling the air as he runs, pulling the kite higher and higher. No blinking orange light in the bottom left corner of my vision. Nothing to worry about, nothing to finish. That was real.

This is a hundred depolarized neurons, a thousand activated rods and cones, a million pixels. But no, I should pretend this is real. I must pretend this is real. Pretending this is real will help me relax.

Abruptly, I'm struck with the urge to reach up and grab onto the projected image of the kite string, to somehow let the kite pull me along and stubbornly never let go until I float away. Until I find somewhere where I can take a break, even if it's just for a moment.

SCENARIO PERFORMANCE

Do you have a student who loves speaking in front of the class? In Scenario Performance, students choose the FPS annual topic that interests them as they project 20 years into the future and create a futuristic story. This story is not written out in full; it is "told" and should be more "natural" and "spontaneous" in nature. Performances should be creative and entertaining to an audience.

This oral activity for individuals encourages students to enlarge ideas, enrich personal style, and predict accurate images of the future. Students are challenged to create a story that lasts up to 5 minutes, is set 20-30 years in the future, and arises from any one of the topics set in the FPS year.

The below link is The Future Problem Solving International's Facebook page and contains over an hour of Middle Scenario Performances at the 2019 International Conference. To view only Washington State Scenario Performances at Internationals, click on the timeline at about 7 minutes for Richard Li, 19 minutes for Joy An (2nd place at Internationals), and 48 minutes for Sidhya Ganesh (who was the International winner). We apologize for the sound quality of the video.

https://www.facebook.com/fpspi/videos/441154700069819/

KEY TO VIP CRITERIA ACTIVITY

Which will most successfully create an awareness of the importance of healthy Sleep Patterns?
UP Relevant: (underline one) Yes or No Complies with Criteria Controls: Yes _√_ No __ Underline Control(s) Violated: 1 2 3 4
Which Solution will prevent poor sleepers from experiencing the negative consequences of sleep deprivation and help them sleep better at night?
UP Relevant: (underline one) Yes or No Complies with Criteria Controls: Yes __ No _√_ Underline Control(s) Violated: 1 2 3 4
Which Solution provides the best protection against sleep deprivation?
UP Relevant: (underline one) Yes or No Complies with Criteria Controls: Yes _√_ No __ Underline Control(s) Violated: 1 2 3 4
Which Solution will inform the most people about the impact of inadequate sleep?
UP Relevant: (underline one) Yes or No Complies with Criteria Controls: Yes _√_ No __ Underline Control(s) Violated: 1 2 3 4
Which Solution provides the least protection against sleep deprivation?
UP Relevant: (underline one) Yes or No Complies with Criteria Controls: Yes __ No _√_ Underline Control(s) Violated: 1 2 3 4

COST FOR 2020 STATE BOWL

If you are starting to plan for the 2020 State Bowl, here are the fees and costs. Registration and payment will be on the WAFPS website again this year.

State Bowl 2020 will be held at the Warm Beach Conference Center in Stanwood. Please note the State Bowl dates, which are **earlier** this year: March 18-20.

State Bowl Registration: $60 per participant; $25 per adult
Options (in addition to registration fee):

1. Room and Board* $124 (includes 2 nights, 5 meals)
2. Commuter $55 (includes 5 meals, no lodging)

Day Adult Visitor: $35 (includes registration and one meal, additional meals may be purchased at $11 through the WAFPS website)

***Linens add $12**

CMPS—NEW REQUIREMENT

NEW THIS YEAR: At IC 2020, the Community Problem Solving (CmPS) written project report will no longer be required to fit on six pages; instead, the report will now have a **maximum of 5,500 words**.

This word count does not include the cover page or the timeline. These are still required as additional pages of the report.

Important Dates

11/13: Last day to register and have PPII evaluated

11/18: PPII due

12/31: Last day to register for any component

1/9: CmPS progress reports due

1/14: QP due

1/23: Scenario Writing due

2/4: Scenario Performance due **Revised deadline**

2/20: CmPS projects due

2/28: Advancing Scenario Writing Cover Sheets due to IO

3/3: State Bowl registration deadline

3/9: Advancing Scenario Writing due to IO

3/18-20: State Bowl at Warm Beach

4/3: Advancing CmPS Cover Sheet due to IO

4/14: Advancing CmPS projects due to IO

6/3-7: 2020 International Conference, Amherst, Massachusetts

FINAL WORDS FROM THE AD'S DESK

Did you know that Washington Future Problem Solving program has both an Instagram and a Facebook page? Please consider following your favorite media.

If you wish to purchase copies of the top three Washington scenarios in each division, you may go the wafps.org website, click on Register and Shop, and for $5 each you can purchase a downloadable version of the winners from 2017, 2018, and 2019.

The WAFPS website (wafps.org) is where you'll find essential information and blank booklets both for individuals and teams. Please call/text (509) 386-6297 or email me (jbuissinkwafps@gmail.com) any time you have questions.

Next Month: **More on Scenario Performance; Showing Research and more.**

***"The most basic skill that can be taught in today's schools in problem solving, especially skills in solving future problems."*— Dr. E. Paul Torrance**