

Global Issues Problem Solving Overview

What is Global Issues Problem Solving?

Global Issues Problem Solving (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 a six-step creative problem solving process. In competition, participants apply their knowledge and the problem solving process to address a Future Scene, an imagined situation set in the future. Topics for the Future Scenes include global issues in the areas of business & economics, science & technology, and social & political areas. Each year five topics are addressed: two practice problems, a qualifying problem, an Affiliate Bowl/Final problem, and the problem at the International Conference. Check out full descriptions of the current topics on our [website](#).

Why Global Issues Problem Solving?

Future Problem Solving Program International provides the tools and strategies students need to face the challenges of today and the future. What better way to prepare students than by guiding them to learn in depth about topics of global importance, to systematically address related complex situations, and to evaluate multiple solutions in order to best address the situation through an Action Plan? Those involved in Global Issues Problem Solving practice powerful problem solving skills using critical and creative thinking. Participants improve their communication skills through collaboration and learning to write concisely with a specific focus in mind. The non-fiction/informational text reading skills, writing skills, and teamwork collaboration skills address many academic standards identified as critical skills by Common Core, STEM, 21st Century Skills, and NAGC (Nat'l Association for Gifted Children). The 4Cs – collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creative thinking are infused into FPS and strengthened with membership in Partnership for 21st Century Learning (P21) www.p21.org.

Does FPS have to be done in the classroom?

FPS participants come in as many varieties as you can imagine. Many coaches utilize classroom time for FPS, while others use it in an after school enrichment setting. Still other 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.

Whom is Global Issues Problem Solving for?

Students may participate in competitive Global Issues Problem Solving in multiple divisions equivalent to grade levels of the USA: Junior (grades 4-6), Middle (grades 7-9), and Senior (grades 10-12), and an Adult division for team participation. Many Affiliates also offer options for non-competitive participation as young as kindergarten, including Action-based Problem Solving, curricular and/or novice problem solving, and other Affiliate created options. Check with your Affiliate Program for more information.

Recent Topics in Business & Economics

Philanthrocapitalism
The Global Workplace
Trade Barriers
Counterfeit Economy
Debt in Developing Countries
Intellectual Property

**Recent Topics in
Social and Political Areas**

Criminal Justice Systems
Educational Disparities
Disappearing Languages
Impact of Social Media
Propaganda
Culture of Celebrity

Who can compete in GIPS?

Teams of four, or fewer, and individuals participate in Global Issues Problem Solving. The composition of the team does not have to be the same for each practice problem, as this is when the dynamics of a good team are being determined; however, rules apply to team composition from the qualifying problem through the international level. Students may compete in a division higher than their grade level, but not in a lower division. Coaches may work with multiple teams and individuals.

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. “GIPS Essential Offerings” highlights information focused on Global Issues Problem Solving. Additionally, interaction through the optional FPSPI Association, provides support and information for all components.

How do I register for Global Issues Problem Solving?

Each Affiliate Program determines its own processes, fees, and due dates for registration and entries. Your Affiliate can provide you with registration and submission materials and may be able to put you in touch with experienced GIPS coaches. If you need contact information for your Affiliate, you can find it at on our [website](#).

**Recent Topics in
Science and Technology**

Spread of Infectious Disease
Toxic Materials
Biosecurity
Desertification
Space
Energy of the Future

How are GIPS booklets evaluated?

GIPS booklets are scored by trained evaluators who carefully read and assess the written booklets. Scoring is completed using a rubric-based score sheet, and feedback is provided with suggestions for improvement. 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!

Quality teams from the qualifying competition move on to the Affiliate Bowl/National Competition and champion teams and individuals in each division at this level earn invitations to the International Conference competition.

2018-19 Topics

Mission to Moon, Mars, and Beyond
Drones
Food Loss & Waste
Coping with Stress
IC Topic Announced March 1st