

Future Problem Solving Program International (FPSPI)

Scenario Writing Overview



What is Scenario Writing?

Scenario Writing is an individual competition in which students develop short stories related to one of 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. A winning scenario example is found on FPSPI's website www.fpspi.org at the Scenario Writing component tab.

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.

Who can participate in Scenario Writing?

Students may participate in Scenario Writing in three divisions as determined according to the grades as identified within the US school system: Junior (grades 4-6), Middle (grades 7-9), and Senior (grades 10-12). For students who participate in the Global Issues Problem Solving (GIPS) or Scenario Performance components of FPSPI, Scenario Writing can serve as an excellent complement to their work on any of the topics. Scenario Writing can be used as a stand-alone activity by an FPS coach, an English teacher, a parent, or any instructor with students who are interested in creative writing. Students who are enthusiastic about stories of the future may be interested in the Scenario Performance component, which is an oral story telling experience.

Scenario Topics

- Educational Disparities
- It's All in the Genes
- 3D Printing
- Identity Theft
- Energy of the Future

Do students need to know the six-step problem solving process for scenarios?

The six-step problem solving process is used in both the GIPS and Community Problem Solving components. Although knowing the process can help students to think about the future and organize a story line, it is not a prerequisite for Scenario Writing. Since scenarios must relate to one of the topics, it is imperative that students do some background reading and research on the topic they select for their story.

Excerpt from *Cloneslavement*

Middle Division 1st Place 2016 International Champion

The metal door to Katie's room lurched open just as she tucked the device under her comforter. Her eyes were greeted with the sight of Kate, her naturally-conceived twin, whose green eyes were riddled with glints of malice. Sauntering towards the bed, Kate adjusted her evening dress, her lips pulling into a glossy smirk.

"I need you to do something for me, DupliKate," she sneered, chuckling as Katie grimaced at the familiar jibe. Kate and her parents had begun calling her that at the tender age of three, getting accustomed to the social acceptability of mistreating clones. Never had they once agreed to call her Katie, the name she had self-selected in the hopes of embracing individuality. Katie glared at her biological equivalent, revolted by the fact that her entire existence had been spawned from Kate's genetic material.

Leaning back against the headboard of her bed, Katie angrily thrust the Submit-Stick into her HoloPad. A list of instructions was immediately projected into the air, detailing the topic of the essay Kate needed to submit to satisfy her Honors student credits. *Write an essay on your stance on whether clones should be regarded as intellectual property or as humans.*

Katie's hopes of freeing clones across the nation had been murdered by the sciolism and ignorance of those that would be corporately and medically handicapped as a result of them.

Heaving a final sigh, Katie set the paper down and stood up. The rows of magnetic latches on the door to the chamber began to dislodge from the capsules that contained them, clicking in a rippling cascade that numbed Katie's senses and blurred the world around her.

Her existence...

How can I get started with my students?

The best way for you and your students to become acquainted with scenarios is to read published scenarios. See "Scenario Writing Essential Publications" for support materials available for purchase from FPSPI at www.fpspimart.org.

How much help should a coach give?

The student's writing must be original. As a coach, you may provide direct instruction on creative writing, read the student's work, ask questions that occur to you as a reader, and make general suggestions for improvement. Authors may receive assistance to correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors. Peer revision is a beneficial process.

How are scenarios evaluated?

Scenarios are read and scored by experienced evaluators who consider these elements: creative thinking, futuristic thinking, idea development, style/voice, character development, mechanics/structure, and topic related research. Authentic evaluation and feedback is provided. See "Evaluation Guidelines for International Scenario Writing Competition" for more information.

How do I register for Scenario Writing?

Each Affiliate Program of FPSPI determines its own processes and fees for registration and entries. Mentoring where the Scenario Writing component is not offered is done through FPSPI.

When are scenario entries due?

Affiliates may use a "yearlong" option with two submissions or a "competitive" option with a single submission. With the yearlong option, the first submission is noncompetitive and provides written feedback to guide improvement of the story. Check with your Affiliate Director for options and due dates.

Is there another level of competition?

Winning stories in 1st through 3rd place of each division at the Affiliate level may be entered into the International Scenario Writing Competition. All first-place Affiliate winners and all international winners 1st-5th are eligible to compete in the Scenario Writing Team Competition at the International Conference in June.