

What Is the Global Issues Problem Solving Competition? What Do You Need to Participate?

Individuals or teams of two to four students in grades 4-12 use the FPS six-step problem solving process to explore challenges and propose an action plan to complex societal problems, such as fads, financial security, amateur sports, the Internet and genetic engineering. The work is in response to a short scenario about a given topic set in the future (called the future scene) and is written into a 12 to 14-page booklet.

Participants are divided into three divisions:

- Grades 4 - 6 (Junior)
- Grades 7 - 9 (Middle)
- Grades 10 - 12 (Senior)

Individuals and teams complete two practice problems (Oct., Dec.) and one qualifying problem (Feb.) throughout the school year. Trained evaluators score student work and return it with feedback including suggestions for improvement. The top scoring teams on the qualifying problem are invited to participate in the Georgia FPSP State Bowl in March. The winners in each division advance to the FPSP International Conference in early June.

Who Can Participate?

- An individual or a group of students (2 – 4 students per team), *with...*
- A coach – any adult who agrees to sponsor, oversee, and be the contact for the competitors. Training for coaches is held in late August or early September, *or...*
- Older students who know the process and plan to coach themselves still need an adult sponsor.

Cost:

- See registration form

Must-Haves:

(order from www.fpspimart.org)

- *Coach's Handbook* – step-by-step guide for brand new or returning coaches.
- *Readings, Research, and Resources* – RRR; summaries of articles related to each of the first four topics, with an overview, vocabulary, and questions/answers for each topic; usually much easier for elementary and middle school students to read than the original articles.
- Examples of a GIPS booklet and a GIPS future scene can be found at www.georgiafsp.org.

Extras:

(order from www.fpspimart.org)

- *Topic Activity Units* – lessons for the first four topics, with connections to the six-step problem solving process
- *International Conference Global Issues Problem Solving Champions* – If you don't know what goes into a Global Issues Problem Solving booklet, this would provide three good examples, one from each division. If you are a second or third year coach, here are what champion booklets look like.
- *Problem Solving Pointers for Students* – a more in-depth look at the GIPS process

FPSP has more materials related to Global Issues Problem Solving. Materials can be ordered from FPS International at www.fpspi.org.

Register with GA FPSP.

Find the Global Issues Problem Solving Registration Form at www.georgiafsp.org.

For more information, see the contacts at www.georgiafsp.org.