

SCENARIO WRITING COMPONENT

Tips for Coaches

General

- Be aware that ideas and good writing are both important in FPSPI scenario writing.
- Follow competition rules and submission guidelines carefully.

Topics

- Review each of the four topics with students (if allowing them a choice of topics).
- Generate imagined futures for the other topics.
- Discuss which of the four topics interests them the most.

Research

- Encourage students to read as much material on their chosen topic as they need to understand the various facets of the topic.
- Provide FPSPI's Suggested Readings (see www.fpspi.org under Topics, Northern Hemisphere) and/or the appropriate chapters in the current *Readings, Research, and Resources* to your students.
- Have students take notes on useful facts or ideas from their research.

FPS Model

A shortened version of the FPS six-step problem solving model can help students clarify their thinking on the topic, as well as provide sources for a scenario theme; however, this is not required for Scenario Writing.

Characterization

Scenario writers should identify a central, identifiable, sustained character(s) -- animate or inanimate -- and develop that character throughout the events and/or plot of the scenario.

Futuristic Element

Encourage students to

- Write their scenarios as though their future were the present.
- Make evident futuristic trends and predictions throughout the scenario
- Futuristic elements/devices should blend in smoothly with the flow of the story.
- Avoid lengthy explanations and descriptions of the present day mechanical devices and social trends

How Much to Help

The student's writing must be original. The coach may:

- Provide direct instruction on creative writing and/or how to write a scenario.
- Read the student work, ask questions, and make suggestions.
- Assist students to correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Encourage the use of spellcheck!
- Encourage writing drafts and editing.
- Encourage peer review of scenarios.

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Tips for Authors

General

- Be aware that ideas and good writing are both important in FPSPi scenario writing.
- Follow competition rules and submission guidelines carefully.

Futures

- Incorporate futuristic thinking into your writing – portray futuristic information and trends. (It is fun to explain how inventions affect our future lives, but don't "overgadgetize.")
- Incorporate creativity into your writing – use inventive, innovative, original, resourceful ideas.
- Futuristic elements/devices should blend in smoothly with the flow of the story.
- Avoid lengthy explanations and descriptions of the present day mechanical devices and social trends

Pre-Writing

- Read and gather information in the current *Readings, Research, and Resources; Omni; Futurist; Discover, etc.*
- Use creative problem solving generating tools to come up with a title that captures the essence of your scenario.
- Write an outline and rough draft of your scenario.
- Use key words or phrases to identify your story with the selected topic and the time period in which your scenario is set.

Technique

- Utilize appropriate formats for writing a scenario - narrative, dialogue, diary, journal, and letter writing, etc.
- Use conflict, adventure, suspense, humor (satire, parody) in the development of the scenario.
- Use first or third person.
- Incorporate dialogue, if it's appropriate to do so.
- Provide background information in "bits and scratches" in dialogue and/or thoughts. Blocks of flashback are usually too long for 1,500 words.

Character(s)

- Use a minimum number of characters, animate or inanimate (usually 1–2 protagonists).
- Introduce main character(s) as soon as possible.
- Place the lead character directly into the situation developed in the scenario.
- Demonstrate how things have changed and how the main character is affected.
- If conflict is a central part of the story, lead to the point where the character(s) has a chance to "win, lose or draw," in order to set up a moment of suspense.

Purpose

- Narrow the topic to establish and maintain a clear focus.
- Write the scenario with a point set in the future as if it were really happening in the present.

Audience

- Involve the audience (readers) immediately in the introductory paragraph.
- Be aware of your audience; involve readers by writing to elicit an emotional response from them.

Style

- Demonstrate a suitable voice/tone throughout the scenario.
- Exhibit the author's personal touch through vivid, colorful description that gives the writing life and spirit.

Idea Development

- Develop the idea of the scenario to point out positive social and cultural aspects or the consequences of doing without them.
- Form the climax as a logical outgrowth of the story line or character development.
- Provide a resolution to any conflict developed in the scenario.
- Provide a conclusion. Be sure to end; don't just stop without giving the reader something to think about.

Mechanics/Structure

- Use appropriate grammar, effective sentence structure, organizational strategies, and effective closure.
- Use effective organizational strategies and appropriate transitional elements.

Post-Writing

Check the scenario to see if the paragraphs/sections are clear, unified, and coherent. Reading the scenario aloud or hearing it read to you can be helpful. Check for accuracies in the following areas: grammar, spelling, omissions, repetitions, verb tenses, word usage, etc. Edit, edit, edit. Use spell-check and grammar applications!