

Future Problem Solving Program International 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. Approximately forty-five states within the United States and fifteen countries throughout the world are Affiliate Programs or Mentored Regions involved in FPSPI.



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).

Who can participate in Global Issues Problem Solving?

Recent Topics in Business & Economics

Air Transportation
Counterfeit Economy
Debt in Developing Countries
Fund-raising and Charity Giving
Intellectual Property
Pharmaceuticals
Trade Barriers

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 programs, novice programs, and other Affiliate created options. Check with your Affiliate Program for more information.

What is the composition for 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.

Recent Topics in Social & Political Areas

Child Labor
Culture of Celebrity
Cultural Prejudice
Human Rights
Megacities
Olympic Games
Orphaned Children

How can I get started with my students?

Training in the problem solving process is essential for Global Issues Problem Solving coaches. The GIPS “Key Tips for Coaches,” available through the FPSPI Association Fee, provides information about each step of the problem solving process. Affiliate Programs often schedule workshops in the problem solving process. 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. Contact your Affiliate Program for more information.

Recent Topics in Science & Technology

Coral Reefs
Food Distribution
Genetic Testing
Ocean Soup
Robotic Age
Space Junk
Water Quality

How do I register students 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 fpspi.org under Connect/Existing Locations Affiliate Directory.

How are GIPS booklets evaluated?

GIPS booklets are scored by trained evaluators who carefully read and assess the written booklets. 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 then advance to the International Conference competition.

