

Hi coaches and students!

First, I want to congratulate all of you for completing Practice Problem II: Wearable Tech. This was a fascinating topic and I hope you all learned some interesting things from it! I was part of the team who wrote this Future Scene, so I admit: I have a little bit of stake in this!

After evaluating booklets, reviewing your evaluations from other evaluators, and chatting with evaluators, I've compiled some feedback and suggestions for you, hopefully to help prepare for the State Qualifier: Human Environmental Impact.

Challenges:

Many of you did quite well in this section. You were able to tease out many salient and interesting problems as presented in the Future Scene. Many of you were able to use your research and Categories to identify a wide range of issues, as well!

One word of caution: make sure to tie your research-based ideas back to the Future Scene itself. Just identifying issues that may be present in the topic itself will not suffice, unless you tie it to the particular situation presented in the story at hand.

Underlying Problem:

First off: I understand how overwhelming it can be to collaborate in an online space. Even as an adult, this is difficult! However, it is imperative that your Underlying Problem include a Condition Phrase, a Key Verb Phrase and a Purpose. We saw a surprising number of UPs that had no Purpose on this solve, which unfortunately really hurt some of your scores. Before moving onto Solutions, I would suggest that your team review your UP to ensure that you haven't forgotten any of these critical components.

Also, remember to review the Charge at the end of the Future Scene to ensure that your UP is addressing a fundamental issue in the story as presented.

Solutions:

Make sure that you're budgeting your time to allow your team to complete all 16 solutions! The solutions you wrote, by and large, pretty strong, but we saw a lot of blanks here.

My one suggestion to help you streamline this section is to brainstorm some good, practical "Who"s for each Category prior to solving. Many of you get very creative or spend a significant bit of time creating cute, bespoke acronyms or inventing companies to do what you need them to. While it can be great fun to design "W.A.T.C.H.: Wearable Activity-Tracking Cardiographic Headset", it may be much faster to just say "[existing company/organization] will design a [product that does the thing you need it to]". Identifying a list of companies, governmental organizations, and topic-appropriate stakeholders prior to solving will let you focus on the "what"s and "why"s of your solutions without getting sidetracked.

Criteria and Grid:

Many of you did surprisingly well here! Remember to check your math and to spend at least a few minutes critically thinking about how your solutions relate to your criteria, as you rank them. Your evaluators do read your criteria and align them with how you scored your solutions. A highly technical, expensive-to-implement solution may be your preferred solution, but is it really the “cheapest”?

Action Plan:

This should be the culmination of all the other work you’ve done in your booklet, so showcase it! Address how this plan will solve both your Underlying Problem and impact the Future Scene as a whole! If this solution were implemented, how would the lives of the characters described in the Future Scene change? Give yourself as much time as you can on this section to really get into the details.

Good luck to each and every one of you on the State Qualifier!

Score Breakdowns by Rank

How to read these tables:

1. Each row indicates all of the booklets’ scores in that rank
2. Each column indicates an evaluator’s span of scores

Junior Division:

Rank 1	139	141	152	109	109	99	111	127	125
Rank 2	137	126	114	106	84	75	104	106	92
Rank 3	118	124	112	95	78	71	90	104	91
Rank 4	98	118	104	91	74	68	72	75	69
Rank 5	93	90	47	79	66	61	48	70	54
Rank 6	81	80	46		59	60		59	

Intermediate Division:

Rank 1	139	133	129	145	134	145	114
Rank 2	137	130	123	131	127	143	110
Rank 3	119	122	109	108	113	121	104
Rank 4	93	117	106	100	112	111	99
Rank 5	90	107	91	97	111	98	96
Rank 6	50	102	83	62	66	64	64
Rank 7			67				

Senior Division:

Rank 1	160
Rank 2	159
Rank 3	131
Rank 4	130
Rank 5	123
Rank 6	113

Junior Individual:

Rank 1	149
Rank 2	131

Intermediate Individual:

Rank 1	152	146
Rank 2	136	124
Rank 3	133	106
Rank 4	132	99
Rank 5	131	98
Rank 6	121	84
Rank 7	116	

Senior Individual:

Rank 1	140
Rank 2	109