Washington FPS

FROM THE AD'S DESK
DECEMBER 2020

This video link relates to the QP topic Human Environmental Impact.

Hello,

I hope that you had a zoomful Thanksgiving that allowed you to connect with your family without having to travel and put yourself at risk.

Today, if you have not already uploaded your teams' booklets to your Dropbox, is the deadline for the second practice problem. I hope that you found the Wearable Technology topic enlightening and that your students found some futuristic way that we will be able to benefit from some new wearable device.

In this newsletter, we have include an abbreviated version of the virtual competition proctor instructions as well as the Student Oath for Virtual Competitions (a fillable document can be found on the website). Please do not rely on what is included here but go to the wafps.org website and read all the instructions.

Although our GIPS numbers are down this year from last year, we still have 104 GIPS teams and 17 GIPS individuals registered at this time. The 104 teams are broken down into 53 junior teams, 44 middle teams, and 7 senior teams. We also have one senior team working on a CmPS project as well as two middle level individuals. If you still have teams who have not yet registered, the deadline for registering for this year's competitions is December 31.

The next GIPS topic, Human Environmental Impact, will be due on January 29, 2021. However, if you are a scenario writer, your competition deadline is January 18, 2021. Scenario performers have until February 5, 2021 to complete their competition video and submit it.

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Affiliate Director

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STUDENT OATH FOR GIPS VIRTUAL COMPETITIONS

New this year is the Student Oath that GIPS competitors will need to complete prior to submitting their GIPS QP. Note that this Student Oath does **not** need to be uploaded with the student booklets. Coaches, please keep the Student Oath on file for future reference, if needed. The 2020-2021 Student Oath may be destroyed in the Fall of 2021. The Student Oath fillable document is on the WAFPS website.

WA FPS Student Oath

All competitors must complete and submit this form prior to the Qualifying Problem (QP).

Name: _____   Email: _____

School: _____   Coach: _____

I have read and understand the official competition rules given to me by my coach.

Initial: _____

I acknowledge that I may not use any additional resources to solve, such as -- but not limited to -- pre-prepared notes or research, extra browsers or open tabs, or non-team members.

Initial: _____

I acknowledge that the list of approved supplies is limited to the following: unopened Post-Its, blank paper, pens, pencils, highlighters, sharpener, non-programmable calculator, dictionary, thesaurus, water, and the provided online documents.

Initial: _____

I acknowledge that I cannot share information about the Future Scene or my work until after the solving deadline has passed, as this could give an unfair advantage to some competitors.

Initial: _____

I acknowledge that my coach and/or proctor may not answer questions or assist with my work during the competition. They can answer questions concerning technology-related issues.

Initial: _____

I acknowledge that there is a strict 2-hour time limit, and my proctor/coach will be restricting access to my booklet when time has expired.

Initial: _____

Signature: _____   Date: _____

PROCTORING THE GIPS COMPETITION VIRTUALLY

Along with the Student Oath, the WAFPS Board of Directors created a set of proctoring instructions for coaches for GIPS virtual competitions. The Board recommends that all coaches follow the proctoring instructions for the Qualifying Problem and for the Virtual State Bowl. Thank you to the committee (Debby Benzinger, Matthew Bohannan, Ann Foreyt, and John Buissink and to others who shared information that was incorporated into these documents) who worked on these instructions and the Student Oath.

The Proctoring Instructions document can be downloaded from the WAFPS website. Below are a few slides from the instructions, which are particularly important; however, the Board asks that all coaches read the entire Proctoring Instructions document prior to the virtual competitions. Thank you!

Permitted Items in the Solving Space

Permitted Items:

dictionary and/or thesaurus
pencils, pens, highlighters & sharpener
non-programmable calculator
blank paper and/or unopened package of Post-Its
water

Online Materials:

shared virtual booklet
Future Scene
video conferencing platform (Zoom, e.g.)

Restricted Items:

research & notes
non-blank scratch paper
extra open browsers/windows/tabs
category list
help from other people*

*note that the proctor CAN assist with any technology-related issues

Official Proctor Overview - Before Competition

Please do the following in preparation for your team(s) solving:

1. Verify that you have the Future Scene for the correct level per group/individual and one shared booklet.
2. Verify that you have a way to record a two-hour time block and a way to synchronize distribution of the Future Scene with the timer.
3. Verify that each group has room to work on its booklet and send a reminder not to have any smart devices or phones available during the solve.
4. Verify that all students have completed the FPS Student Oath, acknowledging the competition rules.
5. Schedule and distribute the access info and time for Zoom or a similar communication system.
6. Note that if you have multiple teams/individuals, staggering start times can be helpful. One possibility is starting groups of about 3-5 booklets together, then 15 or 30 minutes later, starting another small group of 3-5 booklets. This might be critical in the event you do not have the luxury of a 1-to-proctor/booklet ratio during competition.

Official Proctor Overview - During Competition

1. Start Zoom (or other system) and verify all team members can communicate with one another

2. Verify that all students have completed the Oath of Honor and submitted it

3. Grant access to shared documents (official team booklet); students should NOT begin writing anything

4. Verify that all materials are accessible to students

5. Give students time to attend to personal needs that may interrupt the solving space (biobreak, fill water bottles, etc.)

Read the script on the following page to the students at this time

Official Proctor Script

1. Before we begin, please verify that your team or individual ID number is correctly added to the top of each page. If you need help remembering your number, please ask me at this time.
2. There are 120 minutes total; time will be announced with 1 hour, 15 minutes, and 2 minutes remaining. Do your best to use all 2 hours effectively.
3. No outside sources may be used to assist you. This includes smart devices or the internet. Please close all additional browser windows and place smart devices in a separate room at this time. Not doing so can result in disqualification.
4. At this time, please share the supplies you are planning to use for the solve. Acceptable items include: blank paper, unopened Post-Its, handheld non-programmable calculator, paper dictionary/thesaurus, writing utensils, sharpeners, and water. It is critical that you do not use any notes or paper with writing already on it. You should not have access by any means - written or electronic - to research, prior documents, category lists, or other aids, which would present an unfair competitive advantage.
5. During the solve you should only have access to the Future Scene and your shared booklet and be aware that opening additional online sources during the solve may result in your disqualification. Please treat this seriously.
6. If you need to use the restroom, it is not necessary to check with your proctor, but please remember the clock will not stop.
7. Remember that you can ask questions only related to technical issues with the competition, and I am not able to provide feedback, coaching, or assistance of any kind that pertains to the content or structure of your work.
8. At this time I will be sharing the Future Scene with you. A few seconds after this happens, the official 2 hour clock will begin. If you are unable to access or view the Future Scene for any reason, it is imperative you let me know immediately. Are there any final questions before we begin?
9. Best of luck and happy solving!
10. The clock starts now.

Official Proctor Overview - Ending Competition

1. Give students a 2 minute warning.
2. Announce that time has expired and remove student access to the shared booklet, assuring no additional work may be completed.
3. When access to the booklet has been restricted, remove access to the Future Scene.
4. Celebrate and acknowledge the awesome dedication that your students have put in for FPS!
5. If you are a coach, follow Ann Foreyt's protocols for saving, naming, and uploading your students' work. If you are not a coach, please be sure a saved version of every booklet is accessible by their coach who will then complete the uploading process.

Thank you again for providing the best experience possible for all students in the Washington State Future Problem Solving program. This year, more than ever, your assistance and patience have made this opportunity a reality for hundreds of students, and we cannot thank you enough.

Protocols for Technical Issues

Potential issues:
1. Power/internet outage
2. Submission/uploading problems
3. Students lose access to documents
4. Document re-numbers/creates line issues with items
5. Copying items after deadline

Recommendations:
1. Take each issue on a case-by-case basis
   a. Coach or proctor makes a good-faith assessment of the severity of the issue and appropriate amelioration
   b. Coach or proctor contacts John/Ann for guidance, if needed
2. Motto: Make this a meaningful experience for students

SHOWING RESEARCH

Showing evidence of research is worth 10 points. Exactly how can your team show such evidence? Read on to review three basic techniques.

1. **Incorporate specific terms.**
   The FPS International Office (FPSPI) provides a list of terms and definitions in their publication Readings, Research and Resources (RRR). This is a great jumping off point for learning specific vocabulary related to the topic. In addition, when you come across terms as you research, add them to your vocabulary list. When writing challenges, a UP or solutions, look for opportunities to use some of this terminology. Some examples from the topic Surveillance Society are written below with terms in bold.
   - **Challenge**—Since **social media** was designed to facilitate communication among friends, **data mining** by department stores might erode **privacy** and undermine confidence in apps, damaging a useful and powerful tool of the Internet.
   - **Challenge**—Because so much information is gathered about ClassicMart shoppers, an unethical employee may engage in **bluesnarfing**, thus compromising shoppers' **privacy**.
   - **UP**—Since some customers (like Jane) may have made poor choices in the past, how might we decrease ClassicMart's profiling for surveillance, so that those stores are not violating **civil liberties** regulations in 2035?
   - **Solution**—SecureLock will **encrypt** all data gathered by ClassicMart. This will make it more difficult for **hackers** to obtain private information.

2. **Cite specific facts/studies.**
   When applicable, research information can be added to strengthen a challenge or solution. The following examples show the information from research in bold.
   - **Challenge—Research shows that credit rating bureaus will seldom fix inaccurate data.** Since stores like ClassicMart depend so heavily on surveillance technology capable of error, the potential for harming individuals could be considerable.
   - **Challenge—A University of Berkley survey indicated that people have a significant misunderstanding of security and privacy of information on their cell phones. For example, many thought that their cell phones were as private as a personal computer.** If shoppers at ClassicMart have a similar misunderstanding, they may unknowingly provide access to even more information.
   - **Solution**—Customers will wear **anti-Drone garments**, such as those featured in **Adam Harvey's Stealth Wear clothing line**. These garments will have **highly metallized fibers that protect against thermal imaging surveillance**, thereby masking the wearer's thermal signature.

3. **Choose agencies from your research that have the PIE.**
   Rather than use generic implementers of solutions (WHOs), use specific institutions or individuals who have the **PIE** – **P**ower, **I**nterest and **E**xpertise – to implement them. As you research the topic, keep a list of all the agencies and people you read about. Use this as a "data base" for experts who might implement certain solutions. The following examples use specific people/agencies from the research as WHOs:
   - **Civil liberties advocates** will pay for advertisements to alert customers of the extent to which ClassicMart uses surveillance to gather personal information. When customers are informed of what occurs when they shop, they can more effectively determine the appropriate actions to take that will protect their privacy.
   - **The European Telecommunications Standards Institute** will meet with all executives of companies like ClassicMart who are using surveillance technology to monitor their customers. Together they will agree on ethical standards to abide by when using surveillance, thus diminishing the chance that customer's privacy rights will be violated.
   - **Internet Eyes, an England-based website,** will develop an app that can be downloaded to one's phone. Surveillance cameras will only film customers who have activated the app upon entering the store. This way, those who do not wish to be filmed in the store can maintain their privacy.

*Courtesy of Wisconsin FPS

CHARITABLE DONATIONS 2020

Thank you to those of you who have already either donated your time or given a direct cash donation!

If you haven't donated, please consider donating to the Washington Future Problem Solving program this year. As part of the Coronavirus stimulus package, donations of up $300 to charitable organizations can be deducted on the front page of your 2020 tax return, reducing your adjusted gross income. Thus, you can make a tax-deductible donation to WAFPS without having to itemize. Please consult with your tax professional to verify that your individual tax situation can benefit from this information. You will receive a receipt for tax purposes.

If you would like to make a cash donation to WAFPS, we do accept checks written to Washington Future Problem Solving and sent to this address:
c/o John Buissink
817 W. Basalt Ridge Drive
Spokane, WA 99224

Or, you can donate through the WAFPS website here using PayPal or using a credit card/debit. WAFPS is a 501(c)(3) organization. EIN: 91-1728780.

Important Dates

Dec. 1: PPII Due Date, Topic: Wearable Technology

Jan. 11: CmPS Progress Report Due

Jan. 18: Scenario Writing Due Date

Jan. 29: QP Due Date, Topic: Human Environmental Impact

Feb. 5: Scenario Performance Due Date

Feb. 19: CmPS Projects Due

March 10: State Bowl Registration Due

March 24-26: State Bowl, Topic: Personalized Medicine

June 9-13: 2021 International Conference, Topic tba

ARE YOU A MICROSOFT EMPLOYEE?

If you are a Microsoft employee and volunteer to help with your child's FPS experience, please consider donating the value of your time through Microsoft's matching funds program. Through Microsoft's GIVE portal, search WAFPS to find the Washington Future Problem Solving program.

WAFPS is a 501(c)(3) organization. EIN 91-1728780. Questions? Please contact Affiliate Director John Buissink at jbuissinkwafps@gmail.com.

 ## FINAL WORDS FROM THE AD'S DESK

Thank you, coaches, for your dedication and work this year in providing an FPS opportunity for your students. You have gone above and beyond during extremely difficult times to connect with our Washington state students. Thank you!

I hope you have a very merry winter season!

Please call/text (509) 386-6297 or email me (jbuissinkwafps@gmail.com) any time you have questions.

Next Up in January: Scenario Guidelines & more.

"What we learn with pleasure we never forget." —Alfred Mercier