

Washington FPS

FROM THE AD'S DESK
OCTOBER 2021



IC announces MAGIC winners from the Middle division: 1st place Atticus Pak; 2nd place Morgan Schmitter; and 3rd place Rujuta Apte. All from Leota Middle School.

Hello,

Now that we are well into the school year with September behind us, we can start focusing on the first GIPS practice problem on Water Supply, due on October 21. If you have not already purchased the RRR for this year, it is available at the [fspimart](#). Having Water Supply as a topic this year is timely as the west has been suffering from a major drought that has not helped curtail or control numerous forest fires and the east and south coasts have been hit with a couple of major hurricanes resulting in devastating flooding.

Congratulations to our MAGIC winners who are featured above. They managed to figure out the time zone differences and participate in the GIPS competition with team members from Australia, New Zealand, California and North Carolina. Just participating in the MAGIC competition is a complex proposition, but having to deal with major time differences adds an additional level of complexity to this endeavor.

Although this change will not affect the first practice problem, please be aware that the GIPS booklet for this year's competitions will no longer include a Plan of Action page for diagrams or pictures. I have sent all current coaches copies of the new booklets, but they are also available for download at [wafps.org](#).

In the event that we are not able to have an onsite State Bowl, please be prepared to return to using digital (online) booklets. We want to allow the students to prepare for the State Bowl so any changes to our State Bowl plan will be sent out as soon as possible. At this time, we are still working under the assumption that we will be able to conduct an onsite State Bowl.

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POTENTIAL TIMELINE FOR GIPS COMPETITION

When coaching your students, here is a suggested timeline that they can follow so that they don't run out of time as the 2-hour time limit approaches.

For Practice Problem #1, students are only required to complete steps 1-3 (challenges, UP and solutions). ***Please note that only the first three steps will be evaluated for PPI.***

- 10 minutes: Read/discuss Future Scene**
- 10 minutes: Brainstorm Challenges**
- 20 minutes: Write Challenges**
- 15 minutes: Write Underlying Problem**
- 20 minutes: Brainstorm and write Solutions**
- 20 minutes: Write Criteria & Rank Solutions on Grid**
- 15 minutes: Develop Action Plan**

This timeline gives a team **10 minutes of variable time**. Total time is 120 minutes. Finishing the UP by the end of the first hour is highly recommended.



GIPS COMPETITION BOOKLETS ADVISORY

Although last year we conducted all competitions using the technology option only for completing the booklets, this year coaches may have their students participate in the GIPS competition using pencil and paper. The WAFPS board discussed the use of electronic booklets, and felt at this time, that pencil and paper would be recommended. Our in-person State Bowl for 2022 would be unable to accommodate the electronic booklets in our current venue, and the Board felt strongly that the competition during the year should reflect what our State Bowl competition will be. If this should change during the year due to the pandemic, a separate email will be sent by the Affiliate Director with advice on how to proceed.

COACH SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

By Ann Foreyt, Evaluation Director

Here are step-by-step instructions for coaches to follow to ensure standardization of booklet submissions.

Booklet Verification

1. Verify that the team's ID number has been added to the booklet in the header.
2. Verify that all text is readable.

Legible dark colors are OK (those that will show up black or dark grey when printed on a black-and-white printer), but highlighted text, light colors, or wonky fonts should be standardized.

 - a. To turn all text black:
 - i. **On PC: Ctrl-A → choose font color – black**
 - ii. **On Mac: Apple-A → choose font color – black**
 - b. To standardize font:
 - i. **On PC: Ctrl-A → select Calibri, Arial, or Times New Roman**
 - ii. **On Mac: Apple-A → select Calibri, Arial, or Times New Roman**

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Format

All booklets should be submitted as PDFs. This is to prevent an evaluator or other actor from editing or changing the booklet after it has been submitted.

In order to turn a Word document into a PDF:

1. Open your team's booklet and make any updates needed to standardize the text
2. Click **File** → **Export** → **Create PDF/XPS Document**
3. A Save dialogue box will appear
4. See "Naming Schema" section below for how appropriately to name your booklet
5. Save in an appropriate location

Naming Schema

All booklets should be named thus: [DivisionCodeIDNumber]_[PPNumber].pdf

For example, if your team is in the Junior division, ID number 1001, and you're submitting Practice Problem I, your booklet will be titled: **J1001_PPI.pdf**

Packing List

Each solve's submissions should be accompanied by a packing list -- a separate document that indicates all booklets that you intend to upload, along with any notes that might be useful to the evaluator upon receipt (missing pages, etc.)

This packing list can be a simple Excel or Word document -- it doesn't have to be fancy.

It should include:

1. ID Number
2. Coach name
3. Notes

Example format:

ID Number	Coach	Notes
1001	Frizzle	Missing Solutions 5-8
6006	Frizzle	
3003	Frizzle	Team used the Solutions pages for Challenges and Challenges pages for Solutions

Uploading

1. Open your Dropbox.
2. Navigate to the folder that corresponds with the solve that you've just completed.
3. Upload all booklets and your packing list.

Confirmation

It is not required to send Ann Foreyt (ann.foreyt@gmail.com) an email indicating that you've uploaded your booklets, but it's always appreciated, especially if you want to verify that everything is in order.

UNDERSTANDING THE FUTURE SCENE

Reading the Future Scene carefully is the key to a great start in the problem solving experience. Here are some suggestions to share with your Future Problem Solvers:

Pay Attention to the Details

- ✓ Highlight, circle or underline key ideas.
- ✓ Look for important facts, dates and agencies (people or groups).
- ✓ Write notes to yourself in the margins.
- ✓ Star the challenge ideas that you notice right away.
- ✓ Be careful not to make assumptions that aren't substantiated in the Future Scene—don't "make up" ideas you *think* are there, but actually aren't.
- ✓ Discuss the charge in the Future Scene (usually found in the last paragraph)—what direction does it want you to go in your problems solving?

Picture It

- ✓ You might try organizing your thoughts by:
 - Drawing a diagram or picture
 - Making an outline
 - Mapping out information

Put Yourself in the Situation

- ✓ Imagine that *you* are actually experiencing what is going on in the Future Scene. What issues/problems do you think you might experience?

Once is not Enough

- ✓ There are typically many details in the Future Scene and it's difficult to remember all of them after just one reading.
- ✓ Don't get led astray by irrelevant or unimportant information
- ✓ Be prepared to read sections a second or third time.
- ✓ Keep looking back at the Future Scene for things you didn't notice at first.

Stuck for Ideas?

- ✓ Assign each person 1 or 2 paragraphs.
- ✓ Have each person reread those paragraphs even more carefully for more ideas.

Practice, Practice, Practice

- ✓ Before your actual problem solving session, practice reading old Future Scenes from past topics. Check for all of the ideas mentioned above.

COACHING RESOURCES

All coaching resources, including forms, can be found and downloaded from the [WAFPS website](#), for all components. Each year the International Office sends new forms to your Affiliate Director, who updates the coaching resources on the WAFPS website by early August.



2021-22 REGISTRATION FEES

GIPS Teams \$165

GIPS Individual \$115

Scenario Writing \$50

Scenario Performance \$50

CmPS Individual \$120

CmPS Team \$125 for a two-person team, and \$12 for each additional team member over the first two students.

Continuation of a CmPS Project from prior year \$25

A \$15 late fee per team or individual will be assessed after November 30.

Register online at wafps.org.

Important Dates

Oct. 21: PPI Due Date, Topic: Water Supply

Nov. 19: CmPS Project Proposal Due

Dec. 6: Last day to register & be evaluated for PPII

Dec. 10: PPII Due Date, Topic: Building Green

Jan. 18: Scenario Writing Due Date

Feb. 3: QP Due Date, Topic: Insects

Feb. 7: Scenario Performance Due Date

Feb. 18: CmPS Projects Due

March 7: State Bowl Registration Due

March 23-25: State Bowl, Warm Beach, Topic: Mining

June 8-12: 2022 International Conference, Topic tba



FINAL WORDS FROM THE AD'S DESK

Have a wonderful October and a Happy Halloween.

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

Next Up in November: CmPS Changes and more...

“If it wasn’t hard, everyone would do it. It’s the hard that makes it great.” — Tom Hanks