

# Washington FPS

FROM THE AD'S DESK  
DECEMBER 2023



FPSPi announced the first World Solutions Challenge winners in October. Bellingham teammates Sage Maden, Julia Wolgamot, Abby Aiken, and Jonna Gillham placed 3rd in the FPS World Solutions Challenge. The focus of this year's competition was solving a core problem related to Artificial Intelligence. Ninety-five teams from six countries submitted entries. The Bellingham team earned 3rd place for Truthfinder, an AI tool that ranks articles from 1-5 according to how trustworthy they are, backed by a board of scientists.

Hello,

Now that December is here, there are only four days left to register for the GIPS competition if you want your booklet to be evaluated for Practice Problem II, Urbanization. The final opportunity to register for any of this year's competitions is December 31.

Urbanization is a concept that has been around since cities started to grow. However, it was not until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century that the number of cities holding 10 million or more was more than a handful. Today, there are 44 megacities with that many people. The vast majority of the world's cities, 512 of them, have between 1 and 10 million inhabitants. For this practice problem, your students will try to recognize the challenges that are present in today's cities and project how population growth will result in additional challenges.

The qualifying problem, Antarctica, will allow the students to approach a topic that has completely different challenges and that requires very different approaches to their potential solutions. However, both Urbanization and the Antarctic have similar issues as they are both fragile ecosystems.

For those of you who are working on a CmPS project, please note that the deadline for submitting the Project Proposal is November 17. Please either submit to me at my email, [jbuissinkwafps@gmail.com](mailto:jbuissinkwafps@gmail.com) or to your Dropbox.

John Buissink  
Affiliate Director  
509-386-6297  
[jbuissinkwafps@gmail.com](mailto:jbuissinkwafps@gmail.com)

TIPS FOR SCENARIO WRITING... PAGE 2

SCHOLARSHIP INFO... PAGE 3

IMPORTANT DATES... PAGE 4

## TIPS FOR WRITING EFFECTIVE SCENARIOS

Coaches, do you have a student who loves to write? Scenario Writing is a fantastic way to keep that student involved and writing, maybe even during the Holidays! Here are some tips for Scenario Writing participants:

- 1.** Grab your Reader: To write an effective scenario you first must capture your reader's attention immediately. If you don't force the reader to want to read your story in the first few sentences, you have not done your job. If you have spent 500 words leading up to the main event, rethink your story, start again and begin your scenario right where the first important encounter occurs.
- 2.** Create Relevant Characters: Make your scenarios as real as possible. A scenario is essentially a story with characters and situations. Allow your reader to feel an emotional connection to the protagonist as the story develops.
- 3.** Create a logical connection to the topic: A well-written scenario should allow the reader to feel that the story fits into one of the annual topics. A scenario usually poses problem situations for the protagonist to respond to. Thus, an effective scenario leads the reader to believe that the protagonist has the necessary skills to overcome the situation you have created.
- 4.** Think futuristically: A scenario will only work if it doesn't feel like it is happening today. Think about how your character is reacting to the situation and say to yourself, "Could this happen now?" or "What could I change so this is less likely to sound like it could happen today?"
- 5.** Use Informal and Conversational Language: It is generally a good idea to use conversational and informal language while writing scenarios. Learners can easily relate to the conversational style and find it easier to engage with the story.
- 6.** Use Interesting Interactivities: Another useful tip to make the scenarios interesting and effective is to use as many interactivities as possible. Don't tell what happened to the protagonist, describe how he/she feels as it happens. Don't say the walls were ugly, describe how they feel or smell as the characters interact with them.
- 7.** Make the ending spectacular: leave the reader feeling exhausted or exhilarated after the character has survived your scenario. Is your character emotionally drained? Do you feel that the protagonist really became involved in the action?
- 8.** Use vivid vocabulary: As you edit your story, look at each word or sentence and decide if every word is essential. Take out redundant phrases. Add rich emotional words and phrases. Take out any phrases that do not enhance the story.
- 9.** Edit your story. Then edit it again. Leave it for 24 hours and then edit it again.

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR GRADUATING SENIORS SCHOLARSHIP INFO COMING SOON

The Scholarship Committee will be accepting applications soon for the 2024 Scholarships, which will be funded through donations and from profits received from the State Bowl T-shirt sale each year!

If you would like to donate to the Scholarship Fund, please write checks to WAFPS and designate “Scholarship Fund” in the Memo section of your check. Please send checks to:

WAFPS  
c/o John Buissink  
817 W Basalt Ridge Drive  
Spokane, WA 99224

You may also donate using PayPal or a credit card through our [WAFPS website](#). Just click the Donate button. Please note that when using PayPal or a credit card, fees are deducted from your donation before the deposit is made to WAFPS. When using this button to donate, please contact [Affiliate Director John Buissink](#) to designate the money be used for the Scholarship Fund, otherwise donations will be used for the general fund.

More information about the Scholarship and how to apply as a graduating 2024 senior will be coming soon!



## SCENARIO PERFORMANCE

Do you have a student who loves speaking in front of the class? In Scenario Performance, students choose the FPS annual topic that interests them as they project 20 years into the future and create a futuristic story. This story is not written out in full; it is “told” and should be more “natural” and “spontaneous” in nature. Performances should be creative and entertaining to an audience.

This oral activity for individuals encourages students to enlarge ideas, enrich personal style, and predict accurate images of the future. Students are challenged to create a story that lasts up to 5 minutes, is set 20-30 years in the future, and arises from any one of the topics set in the FPS year.

Washington FPSers consistently rank as some of the top scenario performers in the world. It is not too late to register for Scenario Performance!

## ZOOM MEETINGS FOR COACHES



Our next zoom meeting for coaches will be hosted by our Evaluation Director, Ann Foreyt. She will be discussing what went right and what didn't. Bring your questions! We'll see you on Jan. 17!

## 2023-24 REGISTRATION FEES

GIPS Teams \$195

GIPS Individual \$120

Scenario Writing \$55

Scenario Performance \$55

CmPS Individual \$120

CmPS Team \$140 for 2-4 person team, \$170 for 5-8 person team, \$200 for 9-15 person team, and \$250 for over 15 team members.

Continuation of a CmPS Project from prior year \$30

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

Register online at [wafps.org](http://wafps.org)

## Important Dates

2023-24

Dec. 4: Last day to register & be evaluated for PPII

Dec. 8: PPII Due Date, Topic: Urbanization

Jan. 16: Scenario Writing Due Date

Jan. 17: Zoom meeting for Coaches 7 p.m.

Feb. 1: QP Due Date, Topic: Antarctica

Feb. 5: Scenario Performance Due Date

Feb. 16: CmPS Projects Due

March 4: State Bowl Registration Due

March 20-22: State Bowl, Warm Beach, Topic: Autonomous Transportation

June 5-9, 2024 International Conference, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana



### FINAL WORDS FROM THE AD'S DESK

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

Next Up in February: **State Bowl and more...**

*“Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That’s why we call it ‘The Present’.” – Eleanor Roosevelt*