

# Washington FPS

FROM THE AD'S DESK  
NOVEMBER 2020



The video link on the left relates to PPII topic Wearable Technology; the video link on the right is a futuristic look at how the world might change in the next 30 years.

Hello,

**VIRTUAL STATE BOWL:** As many school districts have already made the decision not to allow any overnight trips for any reason this school year, it was deemed appropriate to plan for a virtual State Bowl this year rather than try to plan an in-person Bowl and then have to change it at the last minute. I know that this may be disappointing for some as the experience at Warm Beach is something that many students look forward to year after year. This decision was made by the State Board of Directors. I hope that the 2021-22 school year is no longer impacted by the Covid19 virus and that we can return to an in-person State Bowl in March or April 2022.

At this time the FPS Board is in the process of establishing standards for ensuring consistency when proctoring FPS competitions virtually. Coaches will receive an email with this information once it has been finalized. It is the Board's recommendation that all coaches follow these standards when proctoring the QP and the Virtual State Bowl.

My apologies to all coaches who saved the online team booklet that was on the wafps website earlier. It contained an error that would not have affected PPI as it pertained to Step 5. The error has been corrected, and all current coaches have been sent replacement booklets. The revised team booklet is now available on the website. Please destroy all previous versions of the team booklet.

Please note that the dates for the International Conference for 2021 are June 9-13. These dates are different from the dates listed in previous newsletters. As of now, the International Conference is planned as an in-person competition. However, this may change as we progress through the school year.

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## SCENARIO WRITING & SCENARIO PERFORMANCE

Scenario Writing is an individual competition in which students develop short stories related to one of the five FPS topics for the year. The story (1500 words or less) is set at least 20 years in the future and is an imagined, but logical, outcome of actions or events taking place in the world.

### Why Scenario Writing?

To prepare students for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Future Problem Solving Program teaches students to think critically, creatively, and futuristically. The Scenario Writing component of FPS strives to help students enlarge, enrich, and make more accurate their images of the future, while honing their creative writing skills. Scenario Writing personalizes the ever-growing perspective a student has on the future. In addition, participation provides opportunities for students to meet and exceed educational standards as they refine their writing skills. A rubric-based authentic evaluation is provided, giving students tools for continuous growth.

### Who can Participate in Scenario Writing?

Students may participate in Scenario Writing in three divisions as determined according to the grades as identified within the US school system: Junior (grades 4-6), Middle (grades 7-9), and Senior (grades 10-12). Scenario Writing can be used as a stand-alone activity by an FPS coach, an English teacher, a parent, or any instructor with students who are interested in creative writing.

### How are Scenarios Evaluated?

Scenarios are read and scored by experienced evaluators who consider the following elements: creative thinking, futuristic thinking, idea development, style/voice, character development, mechanics/structure, and topic related research. Authentic evaluation and feedback are provided.

### Is there Another Level of Competition?

Winning stories in 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> place of each division at the State Bowl may be entered into the International Scenario Writing Competition.

### What is Scenario Performance?

Do you have a student who enjoys telling stories or who articulates ideas with passion? 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 does not have to be 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.

### How do I view past Scenario Performances?

The top three finalists for the 2020 State Bowl can be accessed via the WAFPS website at this [link](#).

## SCENARIO WRITING EXCERPTS



Edmunda Li won 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the 2020 International Conference and 1<sup>st</sup> place at our 2020 State Bowl for her Middle division scenario, “Life in a Leaderboard.” Edmunda was coached by Debby Benzinger (Odle Middle School). Here’s an excerpt:

As I hustled in and out of my patients’ rooms, I looked down at my mobile-holoscreen. The folder that contained patient-forty-fives’s tasks pop up. Vitals recorded? Check. Lunch fed? Check. Relaxant pill taken? Check. I submitted the folder, checked the nurse leaderboard, and sighed in relief- I was still at the top.

*“Congratulations Nurse Amelia,” my AR assistant said, “You have achieved your ‘All-or-nothing’ badge for finishing the most checks in one active shift. Improve your leaderboard status with bonus points! Complete the following tasks:”*

I smirked. There was no need to “improve my status”; I was already at the top. Then again, I didn’t want to lose it all either. I scrolled through the long list of tasks. Among them was Max, an eight-year-old boy fighting leukemia. Fifty years ago, the only effective treatment for leukemia was chemotherapy. It was a generally successful treatment but if you blasted cancerous cells with near melting-the-pigeons radiation, then there were way too many helpful and innocent cells and tissues that got caught in the crossfire. Undergoing chemotherapy was like waging nuclear war inside the body, for years on end. Now, immunotherapy has finally leapt through the clinical trial hurdles, becoming a zero-casualty treatment for leukemia. Whoever thought of hijacking the white blood cells to attack cancerous blood cells was a genius. Max should’ve cruised through the two-week long series of shots and monitoring, yet he was still here, nearly a month after being admitted into the hospital for treatment. For some reason, Max still suffered from high fevers and dangerously low blood pressure - symptoms that typically resolved themselves within a few weeks, but occurred almost daily for Max.



Interlake High School’s Emily Feng won 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the 2020 International Conference and 3<sup>rd</sup> place at our 2020 State Bowl for her Senior division scenario, “Skinning Humanity.” Emily’s scenario writing skills have landed her in the top three finalists in the last three years at Internationals. Here’s an excerpt from her 2020 winning scenario:

A bead of sweat had crystallized on her ivory-pale skin, forming an incongruous extrusion that shattered her normally rigid exterior. Every angle, nook, and eyelash looked as if it had been roughly sandpapered into place—as if an artist designing her

had worked with both fiery excitement and consummate precision. She sat without a twitch, her eyes boring into me with a paradoxical concoction of indifference and fastidiousness characteristic of all government employees. The room itself was a perfectly moderated 5 degrees Celsius, making the presence of perspiration even more baffling. Every hair on my arms stood alert to attention underneath my thin dress-shirt, and I could sense my breath hovering over my upper lip split seconds before it traitorously disseminated into the cavernous chamber—leaving me and my brave arm hair soldiers to marinate uneasily in the woman’s gaze.

“As we discussed earlier, Dr. Chung, the procedure will be similar to any standard evaluation.” Her crisp voice cut through the air with scythe-like precision. I blinked twice, unsure if my restless state had distorted my sense perceptions; flustered, I lodged a mental note in my CognoAI assistant to refurbish my attention-honing neurotransmitters during their periodic nanobot sweeps. In some inconspicuous wave of her handkerchief, the woman had managed to remove any signs of previous perspiration from her countenance, and now sat with more calcified entitlement than ever before. “I will go over the terms of this examination for the sake of formality. Beforehand, you will confirm that the National Board of Science has both informed you of your role, and that you are of sound mind and body to complete this evaluation.”

Available for download from the WAFPS website are previous years’ complete scenarios for the top three finishers at the State Bowl for 2020, 2019, 2018, and 2017. Each download costs \$5 for that year’s winning stories, including each division (junior, middle, and senior), a total of nine complete stories.

Reading scenarios from previous years can be a helpful coaching technique.

## WAFPS EVALUATORS: WE THANK YOU!



THANK YOU,  
EVALUATORS!

With the current financial crisis from the coronavirus creating a very difficult environment to continue to operate, the Washington State Future Problem Solving program extends a big THANK YOU to many of our dedicated evaluators who have generously donated their stipends back to the program. Some of these evaluators have donated their stipends not just this year but for many of the previous years too!

One of the many reasons that Washington State FPSers continue to rank in the top at the International Conference each year is due to the dedication of our Washington evaluators!

# 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

## 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

*Coach Submission Instructions Continued*

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](mailto: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.

## 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](mailto:jbuissinkwafps@gmail.com).

## CHARITABLE DONATIONS 2020

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.

[Donate](#)

## 2020-21 REGISTRATION FEES

***Avoid a late fee! Register before November 26—last day to register and be evaluated for PPII.***

GIPS Teams \$160

GIPS Individual \$110

Scenario Writing \$50

Scenario Performance \$50

CmPS Individual \$120

CmPS Team \$120 for a two-person team, and \$10 for each additional team member over the first two students.

Continuation of a CmPS Project from prior year \$25

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

## Important Dates

Nov. 25: Last day to register & be evaluated for PPII

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

## DIGITAL BOOKLETS FOR GIPS COMPETITIONS



**IMPORTANT!**

This year, GIPS competitors will be asked to utilize the **digital booklets** for all topics.

These booklets can be accessed via the website under [Resources for Coaches](#).

Any coaches with concerns about this change should contact me directly at [jbuissinkwafps@gmail.com](mailto:jbuissinkwafps@gmail.com).



### FINAL WORDS FROM THE AD'S DESK

When the December newsletter is published, your students will have just completed PPII (Wearable Technology). It is a topic that has been gaining momentum over the past ten years, and I hope that there will have been some significant advancements made by the time that the future scene occurs. The next topic is Human Environmental Impact, a topic that has a long history.

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

**Next Up in December: Showing Research & more.**

***“The people who are crazy enough to believe they can change the world are the ones who do.”— Steve Jobs***