

# Washington FPS

FROM THE AD'S DESK  
FEBRUARY 2022



Left: video: Future of Mining 2040  
Middle: video: The Future of Mining  
Right video: Mining: The Future is Created Now

Hello,

It is frustrating to be faced with another Covid-19 surge, this time the omicron variant, as we prepare for this year's State Bowl competition. It is possible that, by the time March 24 rolls around, the surge will be over and fewer people will be contracting the virus. Please note that mask wearing will still be required at the State Bowl and social distancing will be in place based on the restrictions of Warm Beach.

More information regarding requirements to participate on-site at Warm Beach will be sent in your coach's email for qualifying for the State Bowl.

At the State Bowl, we will be focused on student safety. This will mean that the State Bowl will primarily be a GIPS competition. We will not be able to hold either a Presentation of Action Plan or a Scenario Performance competition. All scenario performances will be judged from videos submitted before the State Bowl and the winners will be announced at the same time as the State Bowl GIPS competition winners.

Warm Beach will provide each on-site registered competitor or adult a sack lunch. Participants may elect to find a safe space where they can eat their lunch or they can head directly back to school, eating their lunches on the way.

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## WRITING SOLUTIONS

Helping students create good solutions? So, what makes a good one? First, suggest to your students that they write the KVP and Purpose at the top of every solution page. They could create their own posters of Do's and Don'ts.

A good solution is **relevant** (the basic idea addresses the KVP and does not negate the purpose). It is explained in detail (**elaborated**), telling *what* is to be done *by whom* and *how or why* it helps to solve the UP. Here are some tips for writing good solutions.

	DO 😊	DON'T 😞
<b>RELEVANCE</b> Solution helps solve the UP and addresses the purpose	Solve your U.P.	Solve other challenge ideas from Step One
	Use “will” in writing solutions—you are presenting ideas you believe WILL solve the U.P.	Use “may”—it can make your solution idea appear “iffy”/less sound.
<b>ELABORATION</b> Solution tells WHO will do WHAT, and WHY or HOW it works to help solve your Underlying Problem	Use REAL agencies who have the PIE ( <b>p</b> ower, <b>i</b> nterest, and <b>e</b> xpertise) to implement your solutions (WHOs)	Use agencies you make up (e.g., DFF—Drones for a Fantastic Future). Although clever, they do not show research and may not really be an agency that actually has the PIE.
	Tell WHAT the agency or person will do. Be specific about the action that will be taken.	Go on and on with small details that aren't important to the understanding of the basic solution. Save those for the Action Plan if this turns out to be your best solution.
	EXPLAIN <b>how</b> the solution works or <b>why</b> your idea helps solve your U.P.	Just say it will solve your U.P. You need to explain HOW/WHY it will.
<b>CLARITY</b> Solution is written in a clear and concise manner	Express your ideas clearly. Be sure that what is in your head gets down on the paper, so that a stranger can tell exactly what you mean.	Don't repeat your KVP, purpose, or the date over and over in your solutions.

### ADDITIONAL TIPS:

- Try to use a different WHO in each solution. Repeatedly using the same agency (e.g., the government) will only be counted toward elaboration two or three times.
- Try to be specific with the people/agencies you select as WHOs. For example, instead of scientist, tell what kind of scientist (botanist, ecologist); instead of saying the government, tell which branch of the government (Department of Defense, IRS, Congressmen/women, etc.).
- If you are having trouble coming up with solutions, try thinking through the categories to see if one reminds you of a possible idea. Use the SCAMPER technique (substitute, combine, adapt/add on, magnify/minify/modify, put to other uses, eliminate, reverse/rearrange).
- Imagine the future. Use your imagination to think about how new technology, inventions or ways of doing things in the future can help solve your KVP. Even if the basic idea isn't new, you can use futuristic details in describing HOW the solution will work.
- Creativity is rewarded to solutions that are unique and show second level thinking. Let your imagination soar!

### SOLUTION EXAMPLES:

UP: Since many people live in poor African countries that do not address desertification, how might we help these poor countries participate more in the use of methods to prevent further desertification, so that land degradation does not increase in 2040 and beyond?

*Continued from Page 2*

- The AAP will provide benefits to citizens who implement solutions that help reduce desertification. For example, every time someone plants a new tree, they will receive a bag of grain. Receiving items that will enhance their basic needs will motivate people to work toward implementing techniques that stop land degradation. ***(Relevant; elaborate; clear and concise)***
- Teachers will hold monthly classes on desertification methods. This will get poor countries to participate more in methods to prevent further desertification. ***(Relevant; not elaborate; simply says the solution will achieve the KVP, but doesn't explain HOW/WHY it will.)***
- Agriculturists will provide weekly classes in villages across Africa. The classes will not only teach farmers the causes and consequences of desertification, but will also teach sustainable farming methods. When people know more about the facts regarding desertification, they will be more motivated to actively stop it. ***(Relevant; elaborate; clearly shows why this idea will help solve the U.P.)***

UP: Because farmers in Africa are continuing poor land management, how might we increase African farmers' participation in implementing the UNCCD's techniques in 2040 and beyond, so that the land can stay free of increased desertification?

- The WSTF (Walk for Trees Foundation) will organize monthly 5K walks. This will make the people become healthier and see how their previous actions affected the Earth. ***(Perhaps -- relevance not clear; HOW does being healthier and seeing previous actions increase farmers' participation in implementing UNCCD's techniques? Made-up WHO does not show research.)***
- The UNCCD will hire agriculture students to serve as tutors who work one-on-one with African farmers. The tutors will teach farmers how to implement specific land reclamation techniques, as well as how/why they must be used in order to reduce desertification. With such personal help and instruction, farmers will be more likely to implement the UNCCD's sustainable policies. ***(Relevant; elaborate; clear and concise.)***
- The UNCCD will negotiate with local governments to have prisoners work off their sentences at farms that are at risk of desertification. This will educate both prisoners and farmers about smart farming practices. ***(Perhaps; how does this educate farmers? How does this increase farmers' participation in implementing the UNCCD's techniques?)***

UP: Since many African countries continue to engage in poor land management practices, in what ways might we increase sustainable farming practices in 2040 and beyond, so that the desertification can be diminished?

- The government will provide tax cuts for farmers who use sustainable practices. Farmers will be more likely to participate in the AAP's recommended strategies when they see a financial benefit, and in doing so they will be helping to reduce desertification. ***(Relevant; elaborate; the government is an appropriate WHO for tax relief; tax cuts could be a good incentive for farmers.)***
- Scientists will invent a new nutrient that when sprinkled on the soil, makes it fertile, no matter what the conditions. This will allow plants to grow and reduce desertification. ***(Not relevant. This is what we call a "magic bullet" solution – simply creating something that you say will solve the problem. Besides having no scientific basis, this solution doesn't address the KVP – how does it increase sustainable farming practices?)***
- The UNCCD will promote better farming techniques by working with the AAP, giving them farming techniques that will benefit the soil. ***(Not relevant. Too vague/nonspecific. How will the UNCCD promote better farming techniques with the AAP? What techniques? This does not address the KVP or purpose.)***
- Movie producers will create a film that shows the causes and effects of desertification, and what local farmers can do to help stop it. Peace Corps volunteers will visit local farmers and show them the film(s). When farmers are more educated about the problems, they will be more motivated to implement sustainable farming solutions to reduce desertification. ***(Relevant; elaborate; addresses the KVP and purpose.)***

## SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Deadline approaching soon!

Coaches, please contact any past Washington State Future Problem Solving participant who is graduating from high school this year and let them know about these scholarships.

Two scholarships are available! The WAFPS Achievement Scholarship and the WAFPS Impact Scholarship. Graduating 2022 seniors, who have participated in Washington State FPS in any of the components in any year, are eligible to apply. Please use the links provided on the website to apply. Deadline is March 1, 2022, at 10 p.m. PST.



## GIPS QP RULES REMINDER

As the Qualifying Problem is not a practice problem, please adhere to the following rules regarding administration of the process:

- ✓ A team must be 4 or fewer students.
- ✓ A maximum of **120 consecutive minutes** are allowed to work on the booklet.
- ✓ Students must not see the Future Scene before the 120 minutes begin. Coaches should not read the Future Scene prior to the competition starting.
- ✓ They must use the scene for their division (Junior, Middle/Senior.)
- ✓ Work must be completed by the team only, with no outside help or resources of any kind.
- ✓ No notebook paper; however, blank white paper can be provided by the coach/proctor.
- ✓ **Permitted items: Pencils, pencil sharpener, pens, highlighters, dictionary, thesaurus, pack of unopened sticky notes, calculator (non-programmable), and water.** 

Participants should adhere to all competition rules during the Qualifying Problem as if it were the State Bowl. Not only does this help with preparing for the State Bowl competition but also creates a fair environment for all competitors. As a coach, if you have any questions, please direct them to Affiliate Director John Buissink prior to your administering and proctoring the write.

## STATE BOWL T-SHIRTS 2022 FUNDRAISER

All proceeds from the State Bowl T-shirts sales for 2022 are designated Scholarship Funds for future scholarships. Please consider purchasing a 2022 State Bowl T-shirt. Information about how to purchase will be coming soon!

## 2022 STATE BOWL FEES

If your team/(or individual) qualifies for the 2022 State Bowl, your coach will receive a congratulations email with more information! Here are the fees and costs for the one-day event at Warm Beach Conference Center on March 24.

Participants and adults/coaches will be asked to wear a high-quality mask over your mouth and nose at all times while on the Warm Beach grounds. More information about Covid19 requirements will be sent via email to coaches.

Warm Beach will be providing a sack lunch for each participant and/or coach/adult who has registered through the WAFPS website.

State Bowl Registration:

Student participant: \$112

Coach or adult: \$37

## Important Dates

Feb. 3: QP Due Date, Topic: Insects

Feb. 7: Scenario Performance Due Date

Feb. 18: CmPS Projects Due

March 1: Scholarship deadline

March 1: Int'l FS topic announced

March 7: State Bowl Registration Due

March 24: State Bowl, Warm Beach, Topic: Mining

June 8-12: 2022 International Conference, Topic tba



### FINAL WORDS FROM THE AD'S DESK

Please let your students know that they can go to the [FPSPI website](#) and vote for the 2023-24 future scene topics. There you will find the proposed descriptors for each topic. The descriptors introduce key concepts of each topic, and offer questions to consider when researching the topic. Deadline to vote is March 31, 2022.

Please place March 1 on your calendars as that will be the date that the International Conference releases this year's IC topic.

Good luck to everyone on the qualifying problem. Don't forget to upload them to your Dropbox on or before February 3.

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

Next Up in March: **State Bowl information and more...**

***“Be the change you wish to see in the world.”—Mahatma Gandhi***