

EVALUATION GUIDELINES FOR SCENARIO WRITING

AS ADOPTED JUNE 2023



The Scenario Writing (SW) Evaluation Guidelines are designed to present the scoring standards for FPS Scenarios for evaluators, coaches, and participants. Evaluation is performance-based, and evaluation is an authentic assessment of student work. Because there is no single “right” answer, FPSPi employs a variety of strategies to review student work, using specific criteria to evaluate performance in each element important in good writing. The goal of the Evaluation Guidelines is to provide a fair, consistent, and reliable method for scoring scenarios. Evaluators will be given details such as word limits and approved topic(s) for each competition. Additional information for evaluators, including feedback strategies, scoring examples, and expanded explanations, can be found in “Best Practices for Scenario Writing Evaluation”.

Score sheet images are included in this document to provide rubric descriptors. Actual score sheet formatting may vary.

INDIVIDUAL SCENARIO WRITING RUBRIC

Although each criterion of the rubric is explained on the score sheet, please review these detailed descriptors before evaluating.

Creative Thinking

Look for fluency, flexibility, originality, and elaboration when scoring creative thinking. Look for writings that use creative approaches in a variety of ways throughout the scenario to advance this score. There are many possible avenues by which writers can develop innovative approaches. Highest scores will be awarded for work that incorporates inventive approaches throughout the scenario, including but not limited to:

- Inventive thinking
- Unusual approaches to plot development, novel characteristics of objects/characters, “out of the box” thinking, etc. (Style/Voice, Topic Integration)
- Unusual setting or characters (Character Development)
- Surprise or novel beginning or ending (Idea Development)
- Elaborated sensory details as well as details of reflections, emotions, or thoughts (Character Development)

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	BEGINNING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	STRONG	EXEMPLARY
Creative Thinking Author moves beyond obvious or common place ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Little to no integration of creative thinking •Creative ideas disjointed/unfocused •Perspectives/outcomes predictable throughout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •More traditional ideas rather than inventive •Creative ideas do not support plot •Predictable storyline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Evidence of creative thinking going beyond the norm at times •Relevant novel ideas present but may be unclear or unfocused •Mostly predictable storyline with "sparks" of uniqueness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Evidence of inventive thinking •Original/unusual details noticeable •Unique or unusual ending, setting, conflict 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Strong portrayal of innovative/ingenious/novel ideas throughout writing •Unusual/imaginative details •Unique/powerful experience for the reader
Score	1 2	3 4	5 6	7 8	9 10

Futuristic Thinking

Look for consistent futuristic thinking throughout the scenario – not just in one or two places where futuristic “gadgets” are described. Highest scores will be awarded for work that incorporates futuristic approaches throughout the scenario, including but not limited to:

- Bases ideas on current trends/research
- Makes logical projections into the future
- Distinguishes between futuristic trends/research as opposed to topic-related research
- Details make ideas believable (Idea Development)
- Futuristic ideas/terminology are relevant to the story and/or the topic (Topic Integration)

	BEGINNING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	STRONG	EXEMPLARY
Futuristic Thinking Author looks beyond the trends of today into the possibilities of tomorrow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Little or no development of futuristic trends; no projection into the future •Inaccuracies evident in regard to futuristic setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Evidence of more conventional ideas rather than futuristic •Little evidence of futuristic trends related to the topic •Natural progression into the future not portrayed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Evidence of futuristic concepts but not sustained throughout •Random reference to futuristic trends •Futuristic elements not clearly connected to story line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Relevant future trends integrated throughout the writing •Specialized terms/language noted •Futuristic ideas connected to topic and storyline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Understanding of patterns/ trends and how they might evolve •Specialized terms/language related to the topic and storyline •Strong portrayal of futuristic trends/predictions enhancing the story
Score	1 2	3 4	5 6	7 8	9 10

Idea Development

Look for logical and intriguing ways in which the writer develops their scenario and draws in the reader. Details should advance the story and move beyond a conventional story progression. Carefully consider the age/division of writers. Junior division writers may not yet have enough experience to move beyond formulaic writing. Highest scores will be awarded for work that incorporates idea development throughout the scenario, including but not limited to:

- Appropriate rising action and conflict resolution
 - Note: Resolution does not necessarily mean a solution

- Reflections/insights into the consequence of characters’ actions or challenges
- Connections that engage the reader
- Positive societal effects
- Logical connection to the topic (and connection to the Future Scene for IC competition)
- Believable explanations
- Cause/effect relationships that move the plot forward
- Sophisticated organizational strategies
- Natural transitions

NOTE: During the International Conference “Idea Development” includes scoring for connection to Future Scene.

	BEGINNING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	STRONG	EXEMPLARY
Idea Development Author provides effective elaboration and organization of plot and story progression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideas minimally developed; lacking details • No story line evident, or if present, illogical or unbelievable • Main idea unclear/disjointed • Reader left confused 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideas generally unelaborated or repetitious details • Some unrelated/illogical ideas; lacks effective plot development; little relationship to topic • Organization random or disjointed; hints at storyline but not developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most ideas developed and supported by elaborated and relevant details • Understanding of plot development evident but narrow focus on topic; • Order easily followed, but transitions may be weak/formulaic • Logical organization, some lapses or lack of coherence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth ideas supported by elaborated details • Related connections/reflections evident along with insight into topic • Strong transitions; logical and coherent organization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complex ideas supported by rich, engaging, pertinent details • Strong evidence of analysis, reflection, insight exploring different aspects of the topic • Sophistication in organizational strategies • Readers attention captured
Score	1 2 3	4 5 6	7 8 9	10 11 12	13 14 15

Style/Voice

The tone of the scenario should entertain, inform, or persuade without being overly “haughty” or “chummy.” A writer’s anger should not seep through the scenario except as a reflection of a character’s thoughts and emotions. Scenarios should avoid overused adverbs and adjectives, should use colorful verbs, and include words that convey feeling. The writer should use an appropriate tone and voice acceptable to a wide range of readers. Highest scores will be awarded for work that incorporates style/voice throughout the scenario, including but not limited to:

- Writing techniques including simile/metaphor, idioms, sensory detail, symbolism, understatement, exaggeration, personification, foreshadowing, allusion
- Well crafted, varied sentences
- Conscientious word choice, accounting for the writer's age/division
- Personal touch motivating the reader to consider consequences
- Skillful use of vocabulary
- Effective inclusion of dialogue and/or internal monologue
- Purposeful use of dialect through word choice, spelling and punctuation

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Style/Voice Author's characteristic way of writing determined by diction, imagery, tone, and choice of literary devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •No sense of who is telling the story •Little evidence of literary techniques or descriptions to liven story •Sentences monotonous/repetitive •Inappropriate or incorrect word choice •Voice not suited to audience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Distant voice; too formulaic/informal or a list of facts •Some elements of personal style, but not fully developed •Some sentence variety, but not consistent •Voice inappropriate for audience or purpose at times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Acceptable voice but not strong or individual •Evidence of 'elements of style' that give writing life/spirit •Effort made to vary sentences but not sustained •Appropriate word choice •Evidence of established voice, but not sustained throughout; difficult for reader to stay involved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Suitable voice/tone consistent throughout writing •Clear, personal touch; elements of style •Sentences vary in both structure and length •Appropriately advanced vocabulary •Writer's passion obvious; reader drawn into storyline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Clear, distinctive personal touch; use of literary techniques makes text lively/engaging •Unique stylistic nuances and elements •Well crafted, varied sentence structure •Skillful use of vocabulary allowing reader to become emotionally involved •Reader motivated to reflect on purpose and consequences
Score	1 2 3	4 5 6	7 8 9	10 11 12	13 14 15

Character Development

Look for a central/main character(s) - animate or inanimate - developed throughout the scenario. Some more mature writers may include a second main character or a subordinate character that is also well developed. Save the scores of "1" for scenarios that narrate without developing characters through action. Highest scores will be awarded for work that develops characters throughout the scenario, including but not limited to:

- Many facets of the characters' personalities evident
- Characters showing emotional responses to situations/dialogue
- Characters that analyze, reflect, show insight, or problem solve
- Evolution of character(s)
- Characters evoke emotional responses

	BEGINNING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	STRONG	EXEMPLARY
Character Development Author creates distinct, identifiable character(s) who possess depth and personality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •No recognizable character(s) •More or less a report or essay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Identifiable character(s) but further development needed •Difficult to make connection to character(s); character(s) stilted with no real purpose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A sense of character development including thoughts and feelings throughout the scenario •Some connection to character(s) possible; inconsistent personalities often with irrelevant details 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Strong sense of authentic character(s); many dimensions of a personality evident, purposeful, and understandable •Insight, perspective, or empathy with character(s) possible •Sense of involvement with the character(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Authentic character(s) with dynamic nature enhancing the overall impact and effectiveness of the writing •Character(s) evoke emotional response •Writer provides insight, perspective, and empathy with character(s) •Sense of involvement with the character(s) throughout
Score	1	2	3	4	5

Mechanics

An evaluator must consider punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and grammar for this criterion. Highest scores will be awarded for work that demonstrates effective mechanics throughout the scenario, including but not limited to:

- Employs conventions creatively for a purpose or to enhance meaning
- “Plays” with dialogue, dialect, or slang without detracting from story line
- Enhances rather than detracts from readability

	BEGINNING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	STRONG	EXEMPLARY
Mechanics Author effectively communicates ideas with appropriate grammar, punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and word usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Many errors of grammar and punctuation •Errors invasive and distracting •More in draft form instead of edited and revised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Grammar, punctuation, and/or spelling interfere with flow of story •Mechanical errors frequently interfere with understanding and/or enjoyment of story •Editing necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Average number/type of errors for age group •Lack of attention to mechanics makes story more difficult to follow or affects meaning •Some editing necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Few errors in grammar and punctuation relative to length and complexity of the writing •Good use of age-appropriate conventions •Evident editing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Clear control of grammar and punctuation •Creative use of conventions to enhance meaning; license intentionally taken with some conventions to make a point; dialogue/dialect/slang, etc. •Carefully edited
Score	1	2	3	4	5

Topic Integration

Strong writers will artfully blend research about the topic or topic related futuristic trends into the story line. Evaluators should have researched all topic options in advance of evaluation. If there are questions as to whether an aspect of a scenario is current, futuristic, or student created, the evaluator should consult provided research or additional sources. Highest scores will be awarded for work that demonstrates effective topic integration throughout the scenario, including but not limited to:

- An understanding of cause/effect relationships concerning the topic
- Blending topic research and/or futuristic trends into the story line
- Relevant terminology as well as a logical knowledge about the topic

	BEGINNING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	STRONG	EXEMPLARY
Topic Integration Author maintains connection to topic issues throughout the story	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Little to no knowledge of topic demonstrated; many inaccurate terms or facts used •Lack of appropriate topic knowledge makes story confusing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Minimal research on topic; few relevant terms present; made-up/imagined facts •Topic information used not relevant to story 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Knowledge of topic obvious but inconsistent; terms or facts forced •Some uninteresting or inaccurate facts with little connection to story line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Clear understanding of the topic connecting smoothly with storyline •Story enhanced by knowledge of the topic and topic terminology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Knowledge of topic artfully blended with storyline •Knowledge of topic as well as an understanding of topic's futuristic trends
Score	1	2	3	4	5

Addendum

The Scenario Writing Team Competition Rubric contains all the items in the Individual Competition Rubric with the addition of the following:

Connection Among Team Scenarios

The individual writings within the team packet should show a clear and logical connection in a creative manner. Writers demonstrate an understanding that their scenario is part of a larger work even though it should stand independently.

	BEGINNING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	STRONG	EXEMPLARY
Connection Among Team Scenarios Author demonstrates relationship to other works within the group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Story line show little connection to the other scenarios in the group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Story makes limited connection to some aspects of other scenarios in group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attempts are made to connect to other scenarios in group, but lapses occur 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Story is clearly connected to other scenarios in group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connections to other scenarios are subtle, unique, or cleverly crafted
Score	1 2	3 4	5 6	7 8	9 10

Relation to Future Scene Parameters

The team's scenario should be a logical outgrowth of the Future Scene and should fall within or very closely to the parameters of this Future Scene throughout. A clear connection of each student's writing to the Future Scene should be obvious.

Read the Future Scene to identify the parameters before you begin to evaluate. The scenario must stay within the parameters in the Future Scene – correct time, place, and topic, or if it deviates, should do so in such a way that is still a logical outgrowth of the Future Scene.

When assigning a relationship score, consider how the story adheres to all parameters or logical outgrowth of the Future Scene.

	BEGINNING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	STRONG	EXEMPLARY
Relation to Future Scene Parameters Author integrates FS topic, time, and place into the scenario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parameters of the Future Scene ignored or not related in any way 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some fleeting connection to the Future Scene Parameters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strays from parameters at several points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slight variance from Future Scene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logical outgrowth of the Future Scene
Score	1	2	3	4	5