



FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING PROGRAM AUSTRALIA

Developing the capacity of young Australians to design and promote positive futures through problem solving.

Primary Programs

A non-competitive problem-solving program designed for but not limited to implementation in the regular classroom divided into two stages: Foundational Skills (Prep -2) and Developing Skills (Grades 3-4). Primary Programs can be implemented as a whole class activity or can be conducted in smaller groups.

The 6 Step Model

Step 1: Identify Problems & Challenges

Step 2: Select an Underlying Problem

Step 3: Produce Solution Ideas

Step 4: Select Criteria

Step 5: Apply Criteria to Top Solutions

Step 6: Develop an Action Plan

Why Primary Programs?

To introduce students in lower primary to the six step problem solving process.

Having developed skills in applying the six step process to a range of genres, students will be competition ready in years 5/6 for Community Problem Solving (CmPS) or Global Issues Problem Solving (GIPS).

The gradual introduction and practice of each step of the six step problem solving process enable students to build a solid foundation of skills applying the future problem solving process to a range of genres across the curriculum.

Through a range of creative and critical thinking strategies, they develop adaptability in the application of the six step process.

The Primary Programs support and extend oral and written literacy, collaborative group work and class discussion.

The skills taught lay the foundations for students to become innovators and responsible change makers of the future.

Recent Science & Technology Topics

Agriculture
Alternative Energy
Artificial Intelligence
Biosecurity
Cyber Conflict
Nanotechnology

Recent Business & Economics Topics

Climate Change
Criminal Justice Systems
Cultural Prejudice
Environmental Law
Food Loss & Waste
Freedom of Speech

Recent Social & Political Topics

Coping with Stress
Healthy Living
The Global Workplace
The Impact of Social Media
Rage and Bullying
Sensory Overload

Foundation Skills

Focuses on developing steps 1-3 of the FPS process through Fairy Tales, literature, science topics, current affairs, issues in the local or school community, ethics education and many other options.

Step 1 - Brainstorm Challenges

Step 2 - Select an Underlying Problem

Step 3 - Brainstorm solutions to address the Underlying Problem

Twice per year your class/group will send in a short submission "Our best ideas" for evaluation. These can be handwritten or drawn by the students or recorded by an adult in the Foundation Skills Workbook.

Developing Skills

Revisits Steps 1-3 and develops the use of:

Step 4 - Writing criteria to help select the best solution.

Step 5 - Scoring the solutions.

Step 6 - Using the highest scoring solution to develop an Action Plan

This submission can use the topic Future Scenes for the year or a real-world problem for you in your class/school/local community.

Twice per year, your class/group can return submission for evaluation. Completing at least steps 1-3 is encouraged, with 4, 5 and 6 completed where possible.

Characteristics of FPS Participants

- Futuristic Thinkers
- Collaborative
- Effective Problem Solvers
- Analytical Researchers
- Expert Innovators
- Ethical Leaders
- Diverse Thinkers
- Global Citizens

How can I get started with my students?

- Register a team or individual
- Purchase recommended publications
- Plan your FPS year