



FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING PROGRAM AUSTRALIA

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

Global Issues Problem Solving

GIPS participants research a series of global topics and learn a six-step creative problem solving process, either as a team or individual. In a written response, students are required to address, critically analyse and solve a major issue identified from a 'Future Scene', an imagined scene set in the future.

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 Global Issues Problem Solving?

GIPS provides educators a framework for teaching and assessing 21st century skills.

Participation in GIPS encourages students to become responsible global citizens and lifelong learners. It equips them to be entrepreneurs and innovators and socially responsible changemakers as they tackle issues critical to the success of future generations.

Students will learn the skills to create solutions to complex problems, evaluate those solutions and turn them into a workable plan of action.

The program provides the opportunity for students to practice powerful problem-solving skills that engage their critical and creative thinking.

Participants improve their communication skills through collaboration with teammates, learning to write clearly and concisely with a specific focus. The 4Cs - collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creative thinking are infused into FPS.

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

Does FPS have to be done in the classroom?

FPS can be successfully implemented in a variety of ways - as an extra-curricular program delivered outside school hours, or embedded in school curriculum from P-12, and everything in between. However you choose to run the Future Problem Solving Program, the development of these skills will correlate directly with the expectations and requirements of the National Curriculum.

How many students can participate and how do they compete?

Students can participate in Global Issues Problem Solving as individuals or in teams of up to 4 students, from years 5/6 (junior division), 7-9 (middle division), and 10-12 (senior division).

In the year-long program, students work through each practice problem, conducting in depth research into each topic, and practice using the six-step model. They prepare and submit a booklet for evaluation, and our team at FPS independently reviews each booklet and provides constructive and detailed feedback.

Based on their performance in the third Practice Problem (Qualifying Problem), the top 10 - 15% of Junior, Middle and Senior participants qualify to participate in the National Finals, which are held in October each year. The champion and second-placed teams from this National Final are invited to represent Australia at the International FPS Final held in the USA in the following June.

For the cost of a single individual or team registration, teachers can gain access to all the program materials and can teach the program to as many students as they wish. (However, booklets can be evaluated only if a team/individual has been registered.) Additional registrations can be added throughout the year.

While the Global Issues Problem Solving provides the opportunity for students to test their problem solving skills against other students across Australian and internationally, FPS is more than a competition. It teaches real-life skills and techniques that are widely used across a range of industries - commercial, government and NGOs.

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?

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