



Our problem solvers learn how to think, not what to think, and gain lifelong skills

Students become mini-experts while predicting possibilities for the future

Our Global Issues program uses imagined “what if” future scenarios to describe real world problem situations needing to be solved. Students predict problems and solutions for 20-30 years from now.



Learn More

How Global Issues works



Grades 4-12

Students work on problem challenges in teams of up to four or individually through schools, clubs, or independently. Our competitions include three divisions: junior (4-6), middle (7-9), and senior (10-12).



6-step problem-solving approach

After researching and analyzing a topic, students get two hours during competitions to complete our 6-step problem-solving process and develop relevant action plans for a given future situation.



Competition season

Each year, practice problems and one qualifying problem are available for all to complete. Those who qualify for their affiliate finals complete an additional problem challenge for a chance to attend our annual International Conference in June.

SEASON AT A GLANCE



Current topics

Each year our topics engage and inspire learning with important challenges from business, civics, society, science, and technology.



Food Security



Rising Sea Levels



Agricultural Industry



Nanotechnology



Visit our Topic Center to learn more about each topic and access topic-specific resources.

Contact Connecticut
Future Problem Solving
karen@fpspcfct.org
203-843-1036





Real World Topics



Food Security

Civics & Society

Practice Problem 1 - November

How might food security issues of availability, access, and affordability essential for living a healthy life impact society in the future?



Visit our topic center to learn more about each topic and access topic-specific resources.



Rising Sea Levels

Science & Technology

Practice Problem 2 - December

How might we address the impact of rising sea levels on coastlines, industries, and people in the future?

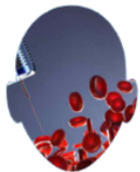


Agricultural Industry

Business & Economics

Qualifying Problem - Teams in January, Individuals in February

How might the agricultural industry adapt to the needs of feeding a growing world population in the future?



Nanotechnology

Science & Technology

Affiliate Finals Problem - March

How might the use of nanotechnology in medicine, healthcare, and other industries affect humanity in the future?



International Conference

TBD

We invite regional affiliate champions to attend our International Conference and compete alongside their peers. We will announce a fifth problem topic on

March 1, 2025 for use at our world finals event on

June 4-8, 2025 at Indiana University in Bloomington.



Connecticut Future Problem Solving

Contact

Karen Castiglione
karen@fpspofct.org
203-843-1036

GET INVOLVED

COACH



FUTURE
Problem
Solving



Make a lasting impact

Whether you volunteer for a one student or for many teams, you can make a direct impact on the lives of young people. Providing dynamic, purposeful learning experiences for students across the globe is no easy effort. We need your support to reach more students. Help us inspire a world full of problem solvers ready to create a better future.



[Learn More](#)

I've seen kids come up with ideas that can only make scientists wonder 'wow, should we try this?' and yes, if they do, they'll solve some of the problems of the world.



Brenda Porter
Educator

Over the last three years coaching a diverse set of kids, I have learned just as much from my kids as they have learned from me, and these are lessons I will carry with me to my future endeavors.

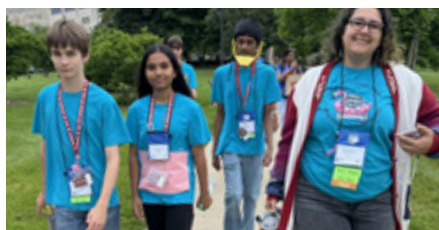


Olga Rokhlenko
College Student (Alum)

I love seeing the kids so excited about learning new and complex things and reaching lofty goals. I really love coaching them. My own children love Future Problem Solving and have gotten so much out of this program.



Anne Lam
Parent (Alum)



Every team or individual works alongside an adult who serves as their coach or adult liaison.

Anyone may serve as a coach

While coaches are often educators who may utilize their classroom time for Future Problem Solving, anyone may serve as a coach. Parents, administrators, retired teachers, alumni, and other professionals interested in helping students become better prepared for the future are all welcome. This includes experienced senior division students (with adult sponsors) who often give back by volunteering to help younger students.

Work directly with students in your area

Coaches get started by training in our 6-step problem solving process via workshops, webinars, or self-directed learning. The time commitment varies greatly by student age and experience level as well as by program.

**Contact us to learn more
and volunteer.**

**karen@fpspofct.org
203-843-1036**




How Future Problem Solving Competitions Connect to Common Core Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy


Future Problem Solving aligns with fulfillment of the English Language Arts and Literacy domain within the Common Core Standards including reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Each program fulfills a wide variety of education standards so teachers can easily tailor activities to meet their specific education system and local requirements. Together we are expanding the way young people learn to think and gain the skills they need to succeed in work and life.



SPEAKING AND LISTENING				
Comprehension and Collaboration. Students plan, produce, and perform for different audiences and in different contexts.	●	●	●	●
Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas. Students engage in conversation with, and present information to, diverse audiences and community partners.	●	●	●	●
READING AND LITERACY				
Reading Key Ideas and Details. Students read a variety of texts to determine what is said specifically and to make logical inferences, citing evidence to support their conclusions.	●	●	●	●
Literacy Craft and Structure. Students learn to read texts which include domain-specific vocabulary as they prepare to employ the structured six-step problem-solving method.	●	●	●	●
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas. Students will read a variety of perspectives and analyze multiple texts address similar information in order to build knowledge.	●	●	●	●
Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity. Students read texts written at a variety of levels and from many different sources and media.	●	●	●	●
WRITING				
Writing Text Types and Purposes. Students write informational, explanatory, persuasive, and narrative texts in response to assigned activities.	●	●	●	●
Production and Distribution of Writing. Students revise their ideas to clearly produce and distribute writing for competition, classroom activities, and their communities.	●	●	●	●
Research to Build and Present Knowledge. Students conduct research to support their community projects and knowledge of global issues and to inform their creative fiction writing.	●	●	●	●
Range of Writing. Students write for different audiences and purposes, including narrative fiction, informative nonfiction, and persuasive presentations.	●	●	●	●
LANGUAGE AND VOCABULARY				
Vocabulary Acquisition and Use. Students demonstrate command of domain-specific and academic vocabulary and the conventions of grammar and usage.	●	●	●	●

 Global Issues

 Creative Writing

 Community Projects

 Storytelling

To learn more about Future Problem Solving, our proven 6-step problem-solving method, and how it connects to a wide variety of education standards, visit fpspi.org or contact karen@fpspofct.org