

The Creative Problem Solving Process



Global Issues Problem Solving (GIPS) is based on the Creative Problem Solving (CPS) process, a powerful process that can be applied to many complex situations in education, business, community, and personal settings.

1. Identify Challenges

(16/team; 8/individual)

- Generate issues, concerns, and problems, applying background knowledge to the Future Scene.
- Consider major issues and categories of problems in order to think of more challenges.
- Select the sixteen best challenges.
- Write the sixteen challenges clearly and concisely, showing cause and effect and tying directly to the Future Scene.

2. Select an Underlying Problem (UP)

- Consider the major issues in the sixteen challenges.
- Select an issue, one that will have a major impact on the Future Scene, for the focus of the Underlying Problem.
- Be forward-looking and proactive, not regressive and reactive, in developing the Underlying Problem.
- Write the Underlying Problem in correct format, beginning with the Future Scene conditions that are the basis or rationale for the idea.
- Indicate a desired action to be taken, a purpose for the desired action, and parameters tying the problem to the Future Scene.

3. Produce Solution Ideas

(16/team; 8/individual)

- Generate multiple solutions to the Underlying Problem.
- Think futuristically and consider the use of technological advances.
- Focus in on the sixteen best solution ideas, checking that each solution addresses the Underlying Problem.
- Write the sixteen solutions clearly.
- Elaborate by telling who will implement the solution, what action will be taken, and how or why the action will be taken.

4. Generate & Select Criteria

- Considering the UP and the Future Scene, generate possible criteria that could be used to evaluate the solutions.
- Select five important criteria.
- Write criteria in question format using the superlative form, one dimension, and the desired direction.

5. Apply Criteria

- Select the eight most promising solutions and write in the grid.
- Rank each solution based on each of the criteria.
- Identify the best solution (highest number of total points).
- New in 2015-2016: Pilot option is available in Middle and Senior Division for ALoU in place of the grid. (Advantages, Limitations, ways to overcome, and Unique possibilities)



6. Develop an Action Plan

- Plan how the best solution can be implemented.
- Describe the actions and steps of the plan.
- Clearly state how the plan will address the Underlying Problem and impact the Future Scene.