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FPSPi



PARENT PERSPECTIVES

Wishing you all the best in...



A monthly informational publication designed for the PARENTS of Future Problem Solving Program students across the globe!

**This month's tips provided by Carole Savitsky,
Indiana Affiliate Director**

The Scenario is a creative writing story that takes place at least twenty years into the future. It has a maximum of 1,500 words and is based upon one of the current Future Problem Solving topics.

Top ten tips for guiding the scenario writer:

1. Know the topics from which your writer will be creating the scenario. The topics and a brief explanation can be obtained from your child's teacher, coach, or on the Future Problem Solving web site (fpspi.org) under Topics.
2. Have the writer read his/her own story aloud. When a writer reads silently, the brain adds what is not there. When a writer reads out loud, the writer hears what is actually written.
3. Listen for the topic your writer has identified. If you are unsure that it is present, or it isn't obvious to you, ask for clarification – "...how are you setting the scene for the *topic*?"
4. If your writer begins by justifying the writing – "This isn't my best yet..." - encourage the writer to simply begin reading.



**2012 Indiana Scenario
Writing Winners**

Please send your questions or comments to the Parent Committee via Chair, Deb Woythal at dwoyth@ gmail.com



"Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing."

[Benjamin Franklin](#)

Encourage your Scenario Author to use rich, descriptive language!

See the excerpt below from:

“The Silent Garden” By:

William Carroll-Shaw (Australia)

Topic - Sensory Overload

“The sun slowly descends on an ashen sky, its light glimmering feebly down onto a brightly-lit city. Magnacars drone noisily as they weave through a forest of skyscrapers. Far below, on the surface, plumes of smoke rise from countless cooling-vents, their cacophonous whistles drowned out by blaring holoscreens. Speakers cry out, perpetually wailing slogans for useless products. The resounding peals of a warning siren join this chaotic orchestra, informing citizens of another tanker re-entering the atmosphere.”



Did You Know? The Australian affiliate has added a new option to their competition, which is based on the Scenario Writing competition. Their students memorize and tell their Scenario orally, following the tradition of oral story telling found in many cultures, especially those such as the Indigenous Australian and Native American cultures. The students then submit their video-recorded presentations for scoring. This type of creative presentation of the Scenario is under consideration as a possible additional component in the FPSPi international competition.

5. Listen for an unusual idea, a clever name, vivid details, etc., which can be praised – “There is a clear development of the relationship between...”
6. Ask for clarification of writing that doesn’t seem to flow, vocabulary words that don’t seem to fit, an abrupt ending – “Your analogy in the first paragraph is right on, but I’m unclear how the one in the last paragraph fits?”
7. Ensure that all criticism is constructive, since constructive criticism helps the writer analyze the scenario. For example, “The story begins with the dilemma but I lost how it was solved.” “You use a lot of futuristic gadgets, but somehow, they don’t give me a sense of the future. How can you change or correct that?”
8. Encourage your writer to show, not tell. Mary combed her red hair versus Mary had red hair.
9. If the scenario just ends and it seems clear to you that your writer ran out of ideas, consider reading a few short science fiction stories, or watch a Star Trek episode with eyes closed. **Listen** for the sequence and how the story line reaches an ending.
10. Wait until the second or third draft is completed to correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Although the mechanics of writing are important in the final product, they are less important at the beginning.

If you want to be more involved with the Scenario process, two books are available through FPSPi Mart (www.fpspi.org), *International Scenario Writing Champions* and *Scenario Writing Handbook*. Your child’s coach has access to a champion scenario, the Scenario Rules and Scenario Scoresheet Criteria, Tips for Coaches and Authors, and the submission requirements. Some coaches use the Future Scene and have purchased the *Readings, Research, Resources Manual*. The RRR contains summaries as well as an Overview and relevant vocabulary for each topic.

Finally, consider offering your editing skills to your child’s coach. The coach/teacher often has many children who can benefit from your newly learned skills as a scenario editor.

“The most important thing is to read as much as you can, like I did. It will give you an understanding of what makes good writing and it will enlarge your vocabulary.” ~J. k. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter Series~