



FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING PROGRAM

Teaching Students How to Think, Not What to Think “I taught for thirty years in some of the worst schools in Manhattan, and in some of the best, and during that time I became an expert in boredom. Boredom was everywhere in my world, and if you asked the kids, as I often did, *why* they felt so bored, they always gave the same answers: They said the work was stupid, that it made no sense, that they already knew it. They said they wanted to be doing something real, not just sitting around... Who, then, is to blame? We all are. My grandfather taught me that. One afternoon when I was seven I complained to him of boredom, and he batted me hard on the head. He told me that I was never to use that term in his presence again, that if I was bored it was my fault and no one else's. The obligation to amuse and instruct myself was entirely my own... We could encourage the best qualities of youthfulness - curiosity, adventure, resilience, the capacity for surprising insight - simply by being more flexible about time, texts, and tests, by introducing kids to truly competent adults, and by giving each student what autonomy he or she needs in order to take a risk every now and then.”

--John Taylor Gatto. (2003, September) “Against School” Harper’s Magazine

So, why Future Problem Solving? The Future Problem Solving Program:

- Encourages students to improve their critical, creative, and analytical thinking skills
- Exposes students to current issues in the humanities and the sciences
- Stimulates students’ knowledge and interest in the future
- Extends written and verbal communication
- Develops and improves research proficiency
- Provides opportunities to apply process tools and method to real world problems
- Guides students to become more self-directed and responsible
- Develops teamwork skills
- Promotes decision-making techniques to reach agreement with team members
- Provides a problem-solving model that students integrate into their lives
- Has served over 25,000 students in Minnesota grades K-12
- Is a Minnesota Academic Education Foundation (MAEF) endorsed program
- Consists of curricular and co-curricular components
- Provides both competitive and non-competitive opportunities

“EMBRACING THE CHALLENGE!”

2008-2009 TOPICS

Practice Problem # 1

Practice Problem # 2

Regional Competition

State Competition

International Competition

The Olympic Games

Cyber Conflict

Space Junk

The Counterfeit Economy

Pandemic

MINNESOTA FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING PROGRAM
Teaching Students How to Think, Not What to Think



2008 WORKSHOP REGISTRATION and INFORMATION
for CENTRAL MINNESOTA

Beginner Coach Training

This session has been designed for new coaches. It includes:

- I. Hands-on introduction to the Parnes-Osborne Problem Solving Process
- II. Instruction on coaching techniques
- III. Tips on team development and teamwork
- IV. Information on the FPSP components
 - Team and Individual Problem Solving
 - Team and Individual Community Problem Solving
 - Scenario Writing
 - Primary Curricular Component
- V. Explanation of district and team registration, fees, and resources

Date: Thursday, August 7, 2008
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Fee: \$100.00 Includes materials and lunch!
Location: Resource Training and Solutions Office
4150 – 2nd St. South
St. Cloud, MN 56302

******CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT HOURS AVAILABLE******

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, July 23, 2008 (MINIMUM OF 10 PARTICIPANTS)

Participants Name: _____

School: _____ **District:** _____

Mailing Address: _____

Participant's email address (Required) _____

Phone: _____

Please remit payment to: MN FPSP, PO Box 8, County Road 18, Brownsville, MN 55919
Purchase order number, check number, or check must accompany registration.
REGISTER ONLINE AT www.mnfpsp.org or directly to Cheryl at cheryl@mnfpsp.org

For more information or to make a payment contact:
Cheryl Whitesitt cheryl@mnfpsp.org or call 507-482-6867