

# W. O.W. Factor

## Words of Wisdom for Wisconsin FPS Coaches and Students

### WHAT MAKES AN EXCELLENT CHALLENGE?

After reading the Future Scene, you will need to think of and write challenges that will be faced. The characteristics below outline the features of an excellent challenge.

#### Relevancy

- This means your challenge clearly relates to the Future Scene and has a ***strong chance of occurring*** given the facts presented.
- Remember, your challenge should relate to the specific Future Scene you are working on and **NOT** be just generically about the topic.

#### Clarity

- Your evaluator should be able to read what you wrote and tell exactly what you mean. Boost your clarity score by using the following format:
  - **IF** – what's happening in the Future Scene that's causing the challenge?
  - **THEN** – what is the challenge?
  - **SO WHAT** – why is that a problem?
- All three of these elements should have logical relationships that make sense.
- Remember to state challenges in terms of possibility (use may/might/could).
- Here is an example of a challenge idea suggested in Future Scene on Educational Disparities. A term that helps show research is underlined.
  - **If schools like Expo Tech continue to experience yearly budget cuts, low-income students may have access to fewer meaningful educational opportunities. Such educational inequality may continue to increase the gap between the rich and the poor.**



#### Conciseness

- You should be able to express your idea in two or three sentences.
- One sentence is usually not enough.
- More than three sentences are usually too much and tend to confuse the issue.

#### Going beyond the Future Scene

- Don't simply repeat information presented in the Future Scene.
- Use that information as the **IF** part of your challenge. Then go beyond to think of a logical **THEN** and **SO WHAT**.