

# W.O.W. FACTOR

Words Of Wisdom for FPS Coaches and Students

## WRITING SOLUTIONS

### WHAT MAKES A GOOD SOLUTION?

- **RELEVANCE**– Your solution helps solve the Underlying Problem and addresses the purpose.
- **ELABORATION** – Your solution tells WHO will do WHAT, and WHY or HOW it works to help solve your Underlying Problem.
- **CLARITY** – Your solution is written in a clear and concise manner.



### SOME SOLUTION DOs AND DON'Ts

RELEVANCE	DO 😊	DON'T 😞
	Solve your U.P.	Solve other challenge ideas from Step one
	Use “will” in writing solutions – you are presenting ideas you believe WILL solve the U.P.	Use “may” – it can make your solution idea appear “iffy”/less sound
ELABORATION	Use REAL agencies who have the PIE (power, interest, and expertise) to implement your solutions (WHOs)	Use agencies you make up (e.g., DFW – Desertification Fighters of the World). Although clever, they do not show research and may not really be an agency that actually has the PIE.
	Tell WHAT the agency or person will do. Be specific about the action that will be taken.	Go on and on with small details that aren't important to the understanding of the basic solution. Save those for the Action Plan if this turns out to be your best solution.
	EXPLAIN <b>how</b> the solution works or <b>why</b> your idea helps solve your U.P.	Just say it will solve your U.P. You need to explain HOW/WHY it will.
CLARITY	Express your ideas clearly. Be sure that what is in your head gets down on the paper, so that a stranger can tell exactly what you mean.	Don't repeat your KVP, purpose, or the date over and over in your solutions.

## ADDITIONAL TIPS

- ✓ **Try to use a different WHO in each solution.** Repeatedly using the same agency (e.g., the government) will only be counted toward elaboration two or three times.
- ✓ **Try to be specific with the people/agencies you select as WHOs.** For example, instead of scientist, tell what kind of scientist (botanist, ecologist); instead of saying the government, tell which branch of the government (Department of Defense, IRS, Congressmen/women, etc.).
- ✓ If you are having trouble coming up with solutions, **try thinking through the categories** to see if one reminds you of a possible idea. Use the SCAMPER technique (**s**ubstitute, **c**ombine, **a**dapt/add on, **m**agnify/minify/modify, **p**ut to other uses, **e**liminate, **r**everse/rearrange).
- ✓ **Imagine the future.** Use your imagination to think about how new technology, inventions or ways of doing things in the future can help solve your KVP. Even if the basic idea isn't new, you can use futuristic details in describing HOW the solution will work.
- ✓ **Creativity** is rewarded to solutions that are unique and show second level thinking. Let your imagination soar!



## SOLUTION EXAMPLES

**UP: Since many people live in poor African countries that do not address desertification, how might we help these poor countries participate more in the use of methods to prevent further desertification, so that land degradation does not increase in 2040 and beyond?**

- The AAP will provide benefits to citizens who implement solutions that help reduce desertification. For example, every time someone plants a new tree, they will receive a bag of grain. Receiving items that will enhance their basic needs will motivate people to work toward implementing techniques that stop land degradation. *(Relevant; elaborate; clear and concise)*
- Teachers will hold monthly classes on desertification methods. This will get poor countries to participate more in methods to prevent further desertification. *(Relevant; not elaborate; simply says the solution will achieve the KVP, but doesn't explain HOW/WHY it will.)*
- Agriculturists will provide weekly classes in villages across Africa. The classes will not only teach farmers the causes and consequences of desertification, but will also teach sustainable farming methods. When people know more about the facts regarding desertification, they will be more motivated to actively stop it. *(Relevant; elaborate; clearly shows why this idea will help solve the U.P.)*



**UP: Because farmers in Africa are continuing poor land management, how might we increase African farmers' participation in implementing the UNCCD's techniques in 2040 and beyond, so that the land can stay free of increased desertification?**

- The WSTF (Walk for Trees Foundation) will organize monthly 5K walks. This will make the people become healthier and see how their previous actions affected the Earth. *(Perhaps -- relevance not clear; HOW does being healthier and seeing previous actions increase farmers' participation in implementing UNCCD's techniques? Made-up WHO does not show research.)*
- The UNCCD will hire agriculture students to serve as tutors who work one-on-one with African farmers. The tutors will teach farmers how to implement specific land reclamation techniques, as well as how/why they must be used in order to reduce desertification. With such personal help and instruction, farmers will be more likely to implement the UNCCD's sustainable policies. *(Relevant; elaborate; clear and concise.)*
- The UNCCD will negotiate with local governments to have prisoners work off their sentences at farms that are at risk of desertification. This will educate both prisoners and farmers about smart farming practices. *(Perhaps; how does this educate farmers? How does this increase farmers' participation in implementing the UNCCD's techniques?)*

**UP: Since many African countries continue to engage in poor land management practices, in what ways might we increase sustainable farming practices in 2040 and beyond, so that the desertification can be diminished?**

- The government will provide tax cuts for farmers who use sustainable practices. Farmers will be more likely to participate in the AAP's recommended strategies when they see a financial benefit, and in doing so they will be helping to reduce desertification. *(Relevant; elaborate; the government is an appropriate WHO for tax relief; tax cuts could be a good incentive for farmers.)*
- Scientists will invent a new nutrient that when sprinkled on the soil, makes it fertile, no matter what the conditions. This will allow plants to grow and reduce desertification. *(Not relevant. This is what we call a "magic bullet" solution – simply creating something that you say will solve the problem. Besides having no scientific basis, this solution doesn't address the KVP – how does it increase sustainable farming practices?)*
- The UNCCD will promote better farming techniques by working with the AAP, giving them farming techniques that will benefit the soil. *(Not relevant. Too vague/nonspecific. How will the UNCCD promote better farming techniques with the AAP? What techniques? This does not address the KVP or purpose.)*
- Movie producers will create a film that show the causes and effects of desertification, and what local farmers can do to help stop it. Peace Corps volunteers will visit local farmers and show them the film(s). When farmers are more educated about the problems, they will be more motivated to implement sustainable farming solutions to reduce desertification. *(Relevant; elaborate; addresses the KVP and purpose.)*

