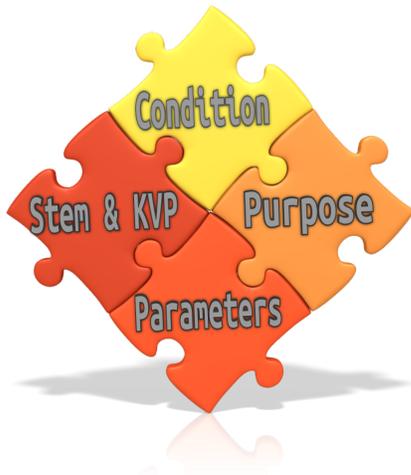


W.O.W. FACTOR

Words Of Wisdom for FPS Coaches and Students



ANATOMY OF AN UNDERLYING PROBLEM

The underlying problem (UP) is the most important step of the process. Why? Because your solutions, criteria and action plan are all based on it, so if your UP is off track, the rest of your booklet will likely be as well. Let's take a close look at the important elements of an underlying problem-- completeness, focus, and adequacy.

COMPLETENESS means that you have all of the required components: **condition phrase**, **stem and key verb phrase**, **purpose** and 3 **parameters**. Let's closely look at each of these.

Component	Definition
Condition Phrase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exactly as it says –a <i>phrase</i>, NOT an entire challenge that has an assumed consequence from Step 1. Should use actual information (FACTS) from the Future Scene or research that is relevant to the Future Scene Tells why you chose your KVP
Stem & Key Verb Phrase (KVP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stem must be either “How might we (HMW)” or “In what ways might we (IWWMW)” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No need to add “the Future Problem Solvers of America” KVP is your <i>main action goal</i> that indicates what your solutions must accomplish KVP should be a MAJOR issue in the Future Scene KVP should stem from your challenges KVP must be singular (should have <i>only one verb, one modifier</i>)
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tells <i>why</i> you want to accomplish your KVP Is something positive that would result from accomplishing your KVP Must be singular (should have <i>only one verb, one modifier</i>)
Parameters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 3: Topic, Time and Place Can be inserted anywhere in the UP Topic – state the topic. For our next problem you will need to include the words “global workplace” somewhere in your UP Time -- this information comes from the Future Scene, either the actual date or an appropriate time-relevant phrase Place -- determined by the Future Scene

FOCUS is a tricky concept! It refers to the *scope* of the entire Underlying Problem. You want to *narrow without trivializing*. For example:

- Too broad: HMW improve the global workplace
- Too narrow: An issue that is really minor/trivial when given the scope of the Future Scene



To evaluate focus, we consider the following:

- Have you appropriately *addressed the charge* given in the Future Scene?
- Do you have a *clear goal*?
- Did you *narrow the issue without choosing a trivial goal*?
- Does your UP *stem from your challenges* generated in Step 1?
- If *absolute wording* is used, is it appropriate to the situation?



ADEQUACY refers to the *significance* of the UP. In other words, given the scope of the entire Future Scene, how important of an issue did you choose? A UP that scores high in adequacy accomplishes the following:

- Addresses an appropriate, significant/important issue/sub-problem of the Future Scene and topic
- Does not make unreasonable assumptions
- If solved, it will have a positive impact on the Future Scene

SOME FINAL NOTES

- Be sure that your condition phrase, key verb phrase, and purpose are:
 - Clearly related to each other, yet . . .
 - Clearly distinct from each other. In other words, they do not say basically the same thing and become “circular” in nature (e.g., Because experiencing an earthquake can be traumatic, HMW reduce the trauma of victims, so that they will not feel as devastated in the aftermath?)
- Stick with the topic.
 - Your solution ideas should have something to do with the topic you studied, so you can use your research.
 - KVPs such as “HMW educate the public” or “HMW raise funds” could be used with ANY topic, and thus are not necessarily specific to the current topic you are dealing with.
- Check your verb phrase (KVP) carefully to be sure it is something that might actually be accomplished. Sometimes a verb can narrow the UP more than is necessary. For example, it may be more realistic to *improve* something than it is to *ensure* it.



UNDERLYING PROBLEM EXAMPLES

The following examples are from our last topic, Recovering From Natural Disaster. The KVP is in bold and the purpose is underlined.

UP	COMMENTS
Experiencing a natural disaster like the 2050 Paris earthquake can be extremely traumatic. HMW address the psychological needs of disaster victims at Haven-1, <u>so they can more adequately cope with the challenges that face them when they return home?</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition phrase based on research that is relevant to the Future Scene and KVP • KVP and purpose are singular • Excellent focus; narrowed but not trivial (9) • Good adequacy (8) • Addresses the charge • Is clear and concise • All 3 parameters present
Because Haven-1 is a temporary holding space for people experiencing natural disasters, HMW begin to accelerate the recovery process of countries coping with natural disaster , <u>so that more refugees can experience the benefits of Haven-1 in 2050 and beyond?</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition phrase contains accurate facts from the Future Scene • KVP and purpose are singular • Focus lower because it's a little unclear whether the KVP is focused on ground recovery at the disaster site, or is related to people from the countries recovering at Haven-1 (7) • Good adequacy (8) • Addressed the charge • All 3 parameters present
Threatening Earth's future populations, natural disasters pose a threat to security both in economic and cultural facets. Overpopulation of refugee compounds, such as the compound Haven-1, may present a problem for scientists as they try to combat disorganized, large populations that they are attempting to control. Overpopulation of these compounds in 2045 and beyond may introduce poverty and higher rates of crime in the compound. HMW raise funds, educate the public, and make diplomatic relations with nations unaffected by natural disaster , <u>so that refugee compounds remain un-overpopulated in 2045 and beyond?</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition phrase is an entire challenge with an assumed consequence; doesn't seem to relate to the KVP • KVP not singular (3 verb phrases), none of which are clearly tied to the Future Scene • Purpose singular, but seems unrelated to the KVP • Focus low (3) • Adequacy low (3) • Time parameter is incorrect – the year is 2050
Resulting from the mixture of different cultures and backgrounds coming together, HMW unite the diverse amount of societal differences , <u>in order to aid in the cooperation of all ethnic groups, so that they can coexist as a community in the world in 2050 and beyond?</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition phrase based on Future Scene facts • KVP is singular • Purpose is not singular; there are actually 2 • Focus lower (Haven-1 is not mentioned, therefore doesn't address charge) (4) • Adequacy fair (5) -- not one of the most important issues • Missing topic parameter