



# GLOBAL ISSUES



*Teams of four students or individuals in grades 4-12 apply a problem solving process to explore challenges and propose action plans to complex issues of the future.*

## Global Issues & the PROBLEM SOLVING PROCESS

- **PRE-PROBLEM SOLVING:** Students research the given topic. Being informed about the issues involved prepares them to better deal with the particular issue they will be presented with.
- **STEP 1 – Identify Challenges:** The impetus for Global Issues problem solving is the future scene, a situation set into the future about the current topic. After reading and analyzing the facts presented, students generate important challenges or issues related to the situation across multiple categories. The most critical challenges are determined and written in a clear, concise format.
- **STEP 2 – Select an Underlying Problem:** After analyzing all the possible challenges, students narrow their focus to a single issue of major importance relative to other challenges. They articulate the underlying problem they plan to solve.
- **STEP -- Produce Solution Ideas:** Students generate solutions to address the underlying problem identified. Quality, quantity, and the use of a variety of categories are encouraged in this step.
- **STEP 4 – Select Criteria:** Students move to planning for action. They develop five criteria relevant to their underlying problem to measure the merit of their most promising solutions.
- **STEP 5 – Apply Criteria to Top Solutions:** Students complete an evaluation grid by comparing their solutions to their selected criteria. By ranking solutions against each criterion separately, they determine their best solution.
- **STEP 6: -- Develop an Action Plan:** Students develop a plan of action. They outline the best solution that addresses their underlying problem.



Through Global Issues students  
become . . .

- skilled problem solvers who consider viewpoints from a variety of perspectives;
- creative and critical thinkers who explore issues in a variety of categories;
- self-motivated learners who are goal directed;
- collaborative workers who are able to compromise;
- effective communicators who can build consensus;
- global citizens to take initiative to solve problems.

