

W. O.W. Factor

Words Of Wisdom for Wisconsin FPS Coaches and Students

Dear Coaches and Students,

Welcome to the 2017-18 FPS school year! I hope you're off to a great start learning or reviewing the process and researching infectious disease. In this first 2017-18 W.O.W. edition you will find some important announcements as well as a critical thinking tool to try. Happy Problem Solving!

Lynn Buckmaster, Affiliate Director

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!!

This year's qualifying problem topic, Disorders, has been highly scrutinized by two Affiliate Programs, with input provided by several psychologists. After considering their feedback, FPSPI has agreed that this topic may be found objectionable and possibly bring about negative consequences for students as they research. After hearing their arguments, Martha and I agree that it would be best if we avoid this topic and change to an alternative one determined by the Affiliate Council, **Philanthrocapitalism**. FPSPI is currently working to create a new chapter for the RRR (*Readings, Research & Resources*) and *Questions & Answers* publications for those affiliates that choose the alternative topic. They hope to have these completed by December 1, and will determine the availability of a *Topic Activities Units* chapter in the coming weeks. I will keep you posted! Here is the new topic descriptor:

Philanthrocapitalism is a form of philanthropy in which entrepreneurial ideas, practices, and wealth are used to tackle global challenges. As the divide between rich and poor increases around the world, the number of billionaires is growing. Some of the planet's wealthiest people have become philanthrocapitalists, pledging to invest time, energy, skills, ideas, and large amounts of money towards worthy causes. This may have a positive impact on the people, groups, and causes that are chosen for support, but there are questions about this form of philanthropy. Will the efforts of philanthrocapitalists actually lead to deep, sustainable results? How will their causes be chosen? Do individual philanthrocapitalists have the expertise to address the world's most significant problems? Will this model of philanthropy present conflicts of interest as it influences the priorities, donations, or behaviors of average people? Does philanthrocapitalism transfer the power and responsibility of social change away from governments and charitable organizations to an elite few? How might philanthrocapitalism benefit or harm the generations of the future?

Congratulations to Our Wisconsin International Conference Winners!

GIPS Teams

- **5th Place Middle Division**, Hamilton MS: Mirra Blehert, Seeger Gray, Jessica Liu, Raia Ottenheimer (Kris Bauer, Coach)

GIPS Individual

- **5th Place Junior Division**, Hamilton MS: William Noguera (Kris Bauer, Coach)

2nd Place CmPS Team, Senior Division

- **2nd Place Senior Division**, Luxemburg-Casco HS (Sandy Ehren, Christy Vincent, Heidi Bader, Coaches)

MAGIC Team Competition

- **1st Place Junior Division**, Kali Geoghegan, Hamilton MS (Kris Bauer, Coach)
- **1st Place Adult Division**, Becky Stellmacher, Wrightstown Coach

Scenario Writers

- **3rd Place Junior Division**, Genevieve Mallin, Waunakee Int. (Dawn Peters & Stacy Starin, Coaches)
- **4th Place Senior Division**, Liam Tsao, West HS (Kris Bauer, Coach)

Team Scenario Writing

- **2nd Place Junior Division**, Isabel Isaac, Hudson MS (Sarah Engstrom-Yde, Coach)
- **3rd Place Middle Division**, Ainsley Kennedy, Hudson MS (Sarah Engstrom-Yde, Coach)

Presentation of Action Plan

- **5th Place Middle Division**, Hamilton MS: Mirra Blehert, Seeger Gray, Jessica Liu, Raia Ottenheimer (Kris Bauer, Coach)
- **2nd Place Senior Division**, Wrightstown HS (Brooke Alexander, Alissa Cousineau, Chloe Crossman, Jacob Klister, Preston Kussow (Coach Becky Stellmacher)



Featured Thinking Tool

Hits & Hot Spots

Use this tool to analyze challenges to in order to formulate an underlying problem.

Procedure

* As you study a topic, keep a list of the challenges you read about and think of on large sheets of chart paper.

* When the list is complete, give each student some stickers (e.g., small colored dots, small post-it notes, etc.)

* Have students review the chart of challenges and put a sticker by those that are “hits” for them. An idea may be a **hit** for any of these reasons:

- It’s a key issue from the research.
- It is a very important thing we need to consider.
- It’s an interesting/intriguing issue.
- It seems workable (I can think of a number of solutions).
- I have a personal connection with it.
- Solving it would help move forward/in the right direction.

NOTE: It may be helpful to allow each student a certain number of hits.



* Now look at the **hot spots** that have formed. A hot spot is a group of several “hits” that share common elements -- they “fit together” or are connected and form a meaningful cluster.



* Try to put each hot spot into the form of a key verb phrase (KVP). How might we _____?

Follow-up Possibilities

- **Analyze your KVPs.** Which are most important/crucial to solve? Are any so similar that they can be combined in a slightly different KVP?
- **Write an underlying problem** using each KVP (add a condition phrase, purpose, and parameters).
- **Try this tool in other areas** where you need to analyze a number of possibilities in order to decide on overall themes/issues (e.g., list school concerns to determine those the student council could help address; brainstorm possibilities for a school party to see which are most popular; make a list of top news stories for the past year (or other period of time) and identify those you think had the greatest global impact).