

Future Problem Solving Topics

2005 - 06

Practice Problem 1 - Climate Change/Climate Threat

A leading climate scientist warns “the climate change problem will be more serious by 2050 ...” and “noticeable deterioration of the US climate could be apparent in decades.” Rapid and major climate change could bring extensive ruin. Four possible regional scenarios: much drier summers in the mid-continent of North America and Eurasia, disappearance of the Arctic ice cap, collapse of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet, and disruption of the Atlantic ice currents that warm Europe. How can these issues be addressed?

Practice Problem 2 - Freedom of Speech

Are freedom of speech, free speech and freedom of expression the same or just related? How far does it go? What is unacceptable? What is tolerable? In social discourse what determines which subjects are taboo? What are commercial speech rights? Should industry be afforded protection under freedom of speech? Should voluntary standards adopted by video game makers, the movie industry, etc. be afforded protection under freedom of speech laws? Will lobbyists, backed by resources of industry, skew or weaken the intention of the right of freedom of expression to change our rights in the future?

Qualifying Problem - Nutrition

Diet foods, genetically engineered foods, organic foods, processed foods. What is good, what isn't, and how do people know? What impact does food have on our lives physically, emotionally and socially? As food becomes more global, how will this impact our multi-cultural society?

State Bowl - Healthcare Access

As we enter the 21st century, access to healthcare continues to be an issue for the rich, the poor and for those in between. It is also an issue that impacts countries, large and small, throughout the world. Many people do without medical attention and needed prescription drugs. What can be done to help those who are without access to affordable healthcare?

International Conference - Redistribution of Wealth

Money and power have the majority impact on internal politics and relationships between nations. Current trends have wealth and power being controlled by fewer and fewer people, companies and countries. What is happening to private enterprise and the average citizen? What can be done to promote the distribution of wealth to more than a few large enterprises?