



2006-07 Future Problem Solving Topics

Practice Problem 1 - Fundraising and Charity Giving

Fundraising has diversified. Schools no longer rely on bake sales and car washes. They sell discount cards for Krispy Kreme Donuts and local restaurants donate a percentage of their receipts for a certain night to a school activity. Schools, churches, youth sports leagues, non-profit organizations, such as FPS, and other charities are having silent auctions and carnivals. All this diversification seems to mean more contact with the corporate world. Do corporations make a profit off their contact with non-profit fundraising or do they just write it off on their taxes? The effect on education is important, especially considering many states are cutting funding to education, and schools are relying on fundraising for more than extras now. Are fundraising efforts replacing taxes? Requests for help come by phone and e-mail and as communications technology changes, fundraising tactics will certainly change with it. How will this pervasive fundraising impact society and how will society respond?

Practice Problem 2 - Protection of National Treasures

The protection of national treasures is a major concern throughout the world. The destruction of the Buddhas in Afghanistan, the looting of the national museum in Baghdad, the earthquake that destroyed the chapel in Assisi in Italy, and the slow erosion of other treasures such as the Egyptian pyramids and Sphinx contribute to this mounting concern. As the chemical content of the air increases, chemicals as well as other destructive forces, are having adverse effects on many natural and man-made objects nations hold as part of their heritage. How will these national treasures be preserved or future generations?

Qualifying Problem - Cultural Prejudice

Given all that is happening in our world, maybe it's time to revisit this most basic but yet vital aspect of how living beings see and treat each other. We live in culturally diverse nations so we can expect contact with people who are different. Business and personal contacts take us out of our immediate neighborhoods, states and nations. Modern transportation shrinks our world and new technology gives instant communication with distant strangers. We must be thinkers who accept differences and make fair evaluations. Will cultural prejudice continue to be a societal factor in the future?

State Bowl - Caring for our Elders

As the population ages, a growing concern is caring for the older generation. After reaching retirement age, many people live much longer and need the support of family and community. As they age, health care needs, including medicines, grow and become more critical. Because everyone is not able to save for retirement, basic living needs and personal care support may be unaffordable for many older people. Since most adults need to work to be able to support their own families, how will we provide support to our elders as well?

International Conference - Privacy

Photos of people can be sent across the world in seconds, cameras surround us taking note of our everyday movements. What are the tradeoffs between the need for prevention of crime and terrorism and the right to personal privacy? Do tabloid journalists have the right to take photos of celebrities in compromising positions? Who should have access to information about people? Is a global database an invasion of privacy? What information is easily available about individuals?