

<p style="text-align: center;">Future Problem Solving New Zealand - Problem #1 -2000 Junior Division Future Scene - Fads</p>
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Sam tumbles out of bed and reaches for the holoivid controls. She always likes to check her favourite E-zine before breakfast.

The many popular teen E-zines (Internet magazines) are full of the latest fads for teenagers and persuade their readers to buy any of the new fads with a "simple click of the button". Holographic technology has produced many new products. In the late 1990's virtual pets and Pokemons were hot items. The fads passed as fads do, but they combined in a big comeback last winter with holographic virtual pets. They covered desks and computers for a few weeks. Teachers weren't too pleased but the pets quickly disappeared as two blockbuster movies were released featuring actors wearing holographic art on their clothes and skin. Within days, local stores and E-malls were selling "Bodywork" pocket computers that produce the holograms, and they were an instant hit.

Almost all this week's E-zine editions spotlight the hottest new clothes. These are made from Prism, a new fabric that changes color in different light, so your clothes change color as you wear them. Classrooms at Summerwind Intermediate, Sam's school, are already filling up with moving rainbows.

Sam is pleased to see that her father has listened to her pleas and has bought the latest breakfast fad, "Allinacup", full of ingredients guaranteed to help keep you thin. She quickly puts together a lunch of her favorite new snacks: chips made from kumara and carrots, plus apple and banana chips. She knows that if she leaves it to her Mum she'll pack a lunch of soybean wafers - last year's "has beens" - and Sam doesn't want her friends teasing her. Summerwind Intermediate students are doing their best to keep up with "all the fads fit to follow".

Most kids watch "Longhand Street", their favourite holoivid programme, every night even though many adults are upset by its content. It's a good place to get an idea of new fads coming up. In the last few episodes, their favourite character has had a new fluorescent tattoo across her forehead. Sam's friends want her to come with them when they get these tattoos permanently copied onto their foreheads and are trying hard to persuade her to get it done too. She is unsure of her parent's and the school's reaction, although her friends can be very persuasive.

Sometimes it's hard for Sam to persuade her parents to buy things like the holographic computers and the Prism clothing, but she thinks it's important to keep up-to-date with trends. The companies who make and sell the products are very pleased with their profits, however. Many companies hire trend predictors who help the companies decide what the next big fads and trends might be.

Sam hops on her four-person hoverboard to pick up her friends on the way to school. They've heard rumours that the school wants to stop them bringing hoverboards to school as there have been so many problems with them being stolen and with students speeding along the footpaths of the town on the way to school. Those few students lucky enough to be able to afford them are extremely popular with the other students.

The students of 2040 think that fads are fun, and they add some spice to their lives. Are fads just a human need for the new and the different; the need to be part of the in group?

Generate a list of the challenges presented by fads in the town of Summerwind. Identify a major challenge that most interests you and phrase it as an underlying problem. Generate a list of solutions to meet that challenge.