

Secondary Term 1 Challenge

2 FEB – 10 APR 2026

Politics + Civic Participation



Who can make a difference on
the issues that matter to you?

The prompt:

In the first of our Secondary challenges for 2026, we invite you to write a 300 to 350 word open letter to an individual or group who you think can make a difference on a political or social issue that's important to you.

Presented in partnership with Annabel Crabb's 'Civic Duty' and the Museum of Australian Democracy.

We want you to:

1 Have a clear purpose, reason or goal for your open letter.

2 Think about and write for the audience you want to reach.

3 Support your arguments with evidence.

4 Inspire others to act!

To enter the Challenge:

- You must be in Years 7–10 in Australia.
- Your letter must be your own work. You can't copy from anywhere else or use AI to create it.
- It must be between 300 and 350 words
- Your teacher will need to send us your work by 10 April 2026, 5:00pm (AEDT).

Secondary Term 2 Challenge

20 APR – 3 JUL 2026

Media + Technology



Has digital technology changed your life in any way?

The prompt:

In this challenge, create a podcast or radio news story to tell us how different media and digital technologies are impacting your life at school, at home or in the community. You can work with up to four classmates or friends and your final piece should be 3 to 5 minutes long.

We want you to:

1 Build from your own experiences.

2 Use different techniques, like language and music, to connect with people

3 Keep the story simple – think about what your audience needs to know.

4 Be creative and have fun!

To enter the Challenge:

- You must be in Years 7–10 in Australia.
- Your podcast or radio news story must be your own work. You can't copy from anywhere else or use AI to create it.
- You can work by yourself or in groups of up to four, but you can only enter once.
- Your teacher will need to send us your work by 3 July 2026, 5:00pm (AEST).

Secondary Term 3 Challenge

13 JUL – 25 SEPT 2026

Culture + Community



What's something newsworthy that's happening in a culture or community you're a part of?

The prompt:

In this challenge, you can choose to create either a photo essay (4 or 5 photos with captions) or a short video (no more than 4 minutes) to tell us about a culture or community that you're a part of. We also want to know something newsworthy about that culture or community (something you think other people should know about). For this challenge, you can work individually or in a group of up to four.

We want you to:

1 Focus on a specific issue, moment or event.

2 Have a clear purpose for what you want your video or photos to communicate.

3 Use different techniques to show and share.

4 Be creative and have fun!

To enter the Challenge:

- You must be in Years 7–10 in Australia.
- Your photo essay or short video must be your own work. You can't copy from anywhere else or use AI or copyright material to create it.
- You can work by yourself or in groups of up to four, but you can only enter once.
- Your teacher will need to send us your work by 25 September 2026, 5:00pm (AEST).

Secondary Term 4 Challenge

5 OCT – 11 DEC 2026

The Year in News



What stood out to you in the news this year?

The prompt:

In the last challenge for the year, we want you to tell us about a news story or event that stood out to you in 2026. You can use any format or style that you like (video, audio, illustration, news article, short essay, creative fiction, photography). Video submissions must be no longer than 4 minutes, while audio entries, like podcasts, can be between 3 and 5 minutes. Written submissions should be 300 – 350 words, and you should submit no more than 4 or 5 photographs.

We want you to:

1 Choose a single experience from the year.

2 Use descriptive language and different techniques to engage and inform.

3 Think about your unique voice – be truthful and real.

4 Focus on the memorable details – pause and reflect.

To enter the Challenge:

- You must be in Years 7–10 in Australia.
- Your work must be your own. You can't copy from anywhere else or use AI or copyright material to create it.
- For video, audio and photography entries you can work by yourself or in groups of up to four, but you can only enter once.
- Your teacher will need to send us your work by 11 December 2026, 5:00pm (AEDT).