News In My Neighbourhood Challenge Rules
Years 10 – 12 (Upper Secondary)

There are four Challenges designed for students in Years 10 – 12 (Upper Secondary). This document provides details of the specific rules that students must follow when creating their entries for each Challenge. General rules that apply to all of the Challenges are also provided.

Term 1 Challenge

Create a 300-350-word news story about a topic, issue or event that's prominent in or having an impact on your community. You should aim to interview one or two sources to quote in your article.

The Rules

- Students must submit a 300-350-word news article
- Students must use appropriate language, structure, and tone for a news article (such as using the inverted pyramid structure and writing in short, simple sentences)
- Students must write in English but can include words in other languages. For example, in describing specific events or occurrences, the student may wish to include words or ideas from other languages. An English translation must be provided alongside the non-English words
- Students must include quotations from one or two interviews to add authenticity and a human perspective to their chosen topic or issue
- Students should make a contact list of the sources included in their article. The contact list should include the full name and email address or mobile phone number for each source. We won't ask students to share the contact list with us, but they should have it available in case we need to confirm details
- Students can reference other sources, such as data from research studies, to help provide context or explain key terms. Details of these sources should be included in a short reference list. For each source mentioned, the author/publisher's full name, publication date, title of source and a link to the source must be included
- The entry must be submitted in a .doc, .docx., or .pdf file format
- Students cannot work with a partner or in groups for this challenge
- Only one entry per student.

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Term 2 Challenge

In a short video (no more than 3 minutes), reflect on what politics and democracy means to you. You might like to think about ideas of civic participation, political values, representation, national identity and current affairs. The video can be done as either a TV news piece or short documentary. You can work individually or in a group of up to four.

The Rules

- Students must submit a video that is no more than 3 minutes long
- Students must follow either a TV news report or documentary style. Students must use the appropriate language, structure, and tone for that style (such as using active voice and present tense for a TV news report, or following a three-act structure for a documentary)
- Students must include footage from interviews with at least one to two sources who can provide insight or expertise on their chosen topic
- Students should make a contact list of the interviewed sources included in their video
- Students must record additional footage (b-roll or cutaway footage) that helps to contextualise and describe their chosen topic
- Students must ensure they have appropriate permissions and consent for all footage included in their video (both interviews and cutaway)
- Students cannot use copyright material, including footage, graphics, still images, music, or sound effects
- Students can refer to other sources (such as data from research studies) but must include a reference to these sources in a reference list. The reference list should be included in a transcript document
- The video should be in English. Students can include content in a language other than English, but a translation of this content must be included (spoken in English) in the video
- Students can use any available camera equipment to record footage for their video, including mobile devices such as smartphones or tablets. Footage recorded via mobile must be done in landscape
- The video must be submitted in a .mp4 or .mov file format and be 16x9 (1920x1080)
- Students must provide a transcript that includes details of the spoken content that occurs in the video, any text that appears on screen, and descriptions of the visuals. The transcript must be submitted alongside the video in a .doc, .docx, or .pdf file format.

Term 3 Challenge

Create an original podcast or radio news story that is no more than 4 minutes long which informs or entertains listeners about any topic. You can work individually or in a group of up to four.

The Rules

- Students must submit a radio news story or podcast episode that is no more than four minutes long
- Students must use appropriate language, structure, and tone for a podcast episode or radio news story (such as using everyday language and speaking in short sentences, as well as following the appropriate news story structure)
- For a radio news story entry, students should aim to include audio from an interview with at least one source who can provide insight or expertise on the students' chosen topic
- For a podcast entry, students should aim to have one to two co-hosts (if following a conversational style) or one guest (if following an interview style)
- Students should make a contact list of the sources included in their podcast or radio news story
- Students can reference other sources (such as data from research studies) but must include a reference to these sources in a reference list. The reference list should be included in a transcript document (which will be uploaded alongside the audio file submission)
- Students' entries must be in English. Students can include content in a language other than English, but a translation of this content must be included (spoken in English) in the story
- Students cannot use copyright material (including music and sound effects)
- Students' entries must be submitted in a .mp3 or .wav file format
- Students must provide a transcript of their podcast episode or radio news story. This transcript must be submitted alongside the audio file. The transcript must be in a .doc, .docx, or .pdf format
- Students can work individually or in groups of up to four for this challenge
- Only one entry per student.

Term 4 Challenge

Produce a creative response in any format (video, audio, illustration, news article, short essay, creative fiction, photography) about an experience, event, or topic that stood out to you in 2025. Video and audio submissions must be no longer than 4 minutes. Written submissions should be 200 – 300 words. No more than 5 photographs.

The Rules

Students can use any format (video, audio, illustration, news article, short essay, creative fiction, photography) to create their entry.

Students can work individually or in groups of up to four for this challenge. Only one entry per student. Students cannot be named on multiple group entries, nor can they work in a group to create an entry in one format and then submit an individual entry in another format.

For **written entries**

- Must be 200 – 300 words
- Students can take an imaginative, informative, or persuasive approach but must adhere to the appropriate vocabulary, grammar, punctuation, structure and language features for that approach
- For references to other sources and writing in languages other than English, students should follow the rules outlined for the Term 1 Challenge
- Written entries must be submitted in a .doc, .docx, or .pdf file format

For **video entries**

- Must be no longer than 4 minutes
- Video entries can be in a documentary or news story style
- For interview requirements, rules relating to use of copyright material, reference to other sources, and permissions/consent, students should follow the rules outlined in the Term 2 Challenge
- Video entries must be submitted in a .mp4 or .mov file format and should be 16x9 (1920x1080). A transcript must also be submitted in a .doc, .docx, or .pdf file format.

For **audio entries**

- Must be no longer than 4 minutes

- Audio entries can follow a radio news story or podcast style (conversational or interview) format
- For interview requirements, rules relating to use of copyright material, reference to other sources, and permissions/consent, students should follow the rules outlined in the Term 3 Challenge
- Audio entries must be submitted in a .mp3 or .wav file format. A transcript must also be submitted in a .doc, .docx, or .pdf file format.

For **photography entries**

- Must submit no more than 5 photographs
- Photographs should follow a photo essay format
- Students must give their photo essay a title and must include a short descriptive caption (no more than 75 words) for each photograph. The caption should build connections between the images and add detail and meaning to the overall story conveyed in the photographs
- Captions must be written in English but can include words in other languages. An English translation must be provided alongside the non-English words
- Students must get permission/consent from any individual featured in any of their photographs
- The photographs should be named Photo 1, Photo 2 etc.
- Photographs should be high quality (ideally 16x9, 1920x1080px) up to 300dpi)
- The photographs must be submitted in a .jpeg, .jpg, or .png file format.
- The captions must be numbered to correspond to the appropriate photo (e.g., Caption 1 for Photo 1) and must be submitted in a separate a .doc, .docx., or .pdf format

For **illustration entries**

- Students can follow any illustrative style (such as graphic novel, comic strip, painting, watercolour, digital art)
- Students can create their illustration using digital software (such as illustrations done via a tablet application). These entries should be exported and submitted at a high resolution (1920x1080px at 720dpi)
- Students can also create offline illustrations and submit a high-quality photograph (16x9 (1920x1080px) up to 300dpi)
- Students cannot include copyright material in their illustrations (including icons, text, graphics, or images)
- Students should try not to include brands, logos or other commercial imagery/content in their illustrations
- Students can submit a maximum of 3 files.

Other General Entry Rules

These rules apply to all four challenges.

- Students must be in Year 10, Year 11 or Year 12 to participate in the Upper Secondary Challenges
- Students' work must be fundamentally their own and must be original (cannot have been published, submitted, or reproduced elsewhere)
- Students cannot submit work that has been generated by artificial intelligence, plagiarised, or produced by someone else
- Students must follow safe media practices when creating their entries. Students must avoid including personal or identifying details (such as addresses or full names) for themselves or others, and consent/permission must be sought from any individuals featured in students' work (such as friends or family members captured in photographs or interviewed as an expert source for a documentary or radio news story)
- Students' entries must only include material created by them, or material they have permission to use including, but not limited to, any use of footage, drawings, artworks, illustrations, photos, essays, articles, and scripts. For more information, please see the competition Terms and Conditions
- Students' entries must be submitted by a teacher, and parents or guardians must have given their permission/consent to enter. Please see the Terms and Conditions for further information
- Entries must be submitted to the following deadlines:
  - **Term 1 Challenge** before **4 April 2025, 5:00pm (AEDT)**
  - **Term 2 Challenge** before **4 July 2025, 5:00pm (AEST)**
  - **Term 3 Challenge** before **22 September 2025, 5:00pm (AEST)**
  - **Term 4 Challenge** before **23 November 2025, 5:00pm (AEDT)**
- Student entries for all four challenges must adhere to the specified file types. Entries submitted in other file types may not be able to be viewed/accessed and will therefore not be considered for the competition. Specified file types include:
  - For written entries: .docx, .doc, .pdf
  - For audio entries: .mp3, .wav
  - For video entries: .mp4, .mov
  - For image/photographic entries: .png, .jpeg, .jpg

It is recommended that students' entries be carefully reviewed by the submitting teacher prior to submission.

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