

Term 1 Challenge

LOWER SECONDARY

28 JAN – 4 APR 2025

What's an issue that's going on in your community or in the world around you? How has this issue impacted or influenced you? What have you learned from it? And what can other people take away from your experience of it?

The prompt:

In the first of our Lower Secondary (Years 7 – 9) Challenges for 2025, we invite you to write a 200-word reflective essay to tell us about a news or current affairs topic that's prominent in or having an impact on you and your community.

We want you to:

Tell us about a specific issue, moment or event that had a big impact on you.

Write in your unique voice and from your unique perspective.

Use descriptive language to build emotion and engagement with your audience.

Be creative and have fun!

To enter the Challenge:

- You must be in Years 7 – 9 in Australia.
- Your essay must be your own work. You can't copy from anywhere else or use AI to create it.
- It must no more than 200 words (excluding the title and reference list, if you choose to include it).
- Your teacher will need to send us your work by **4 April 2025, 5:00pm (AEDT)**.



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Term 2 Challenge

LOWER SECONDARY

21 APR – 4 JUL 2025

Is there an issue or topic you feel isn't being appropriately addressed? Are there specific actions that someone could do to change or fix that issue? If you could, what would you say to them to try to get them to make that change?

The prompt:

In this Challenge, write an open letter to an individual or group who you think can make a difference on an issue or topic that is important to you. Let them know why you think this and what they could do to make that change.

We want you to:

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

Think about and write for the specific audience you want to reach with your letter.

Support your arguments with evidence.

Inspire others to act!

To enter the Challenge:

- You must be in Years 7 – 9 in Australia.
- Your open letter must be your own work. You can't copy from anywhere else or use AI to create it.
- It must be between 200 and 300 words (excluding the title and reference list, if you choose to include it).
- Your teacher will need to send us your work by **4 July 2025, 5:00pm (AEST)**.



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Term 3 Challenge

LOWER SECONDARY

14 JUL – 22 SEPT 2025

What interesting events or activities are happening in the community around you? Are there particular issues that are impacting you and the people you know? Are there topics that you want to show and tell others more about so that they can better understand them?

The prompt:

In this Challenge, you can choose to create either a photo essay (5 – 6 photos with captions) or a radio news story (no more than 2 minutes) to inform us about a topic or issue that interests you and which you think other people should know about.

We want you to:

Build from
your own
experiences.

Use different
techniques to
create
emotion and
engagement.

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

Be creative
and have fun.

To enter the Challenge:

- You must be in Years 7 – 9 in Australia.
- Your photo essay or radio news story 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 **22 September 2025, 5:00pm (AEST)**.



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Term 4 Challenge

LOWER SECONDARY

6 OCT – 23 NOV 2025

Take a moment to think about the different experiences you had this year and the different activities that you did. Is there one that stands out? Is there one that you liked the most or that taught or showed you something new and exciting?

The prompt:

Tell us about an experience, event, topic or issue that stood out to you in 2025. You can use any format or style that you like (video, audio, illustration, news article, short essay, creative fiction, photography). Video and audio submissions must be no longer than 4 minutes. Written submissions should be 200 – 300 words. No more than 5 photographs or 3 illustration files.

We want you to:

Choose a single experience from the year.

Use descriptive language and different techniques to engage and inform.

Think about your unique voice – be truthful and real.

Focus on the memorable details – pause and reflect.

To enter the Challenge:

- You must be in Years 7 – 9 in Australia.
- Your work must be your own. 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 **23 November 2025, 5:00pm (AEDT)**.



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