

Term 1 Challenge

UPPER 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 Upper Secondary (Years 10 – 12) Challenges for 2025, we invite you to write a short news story (300 to 350 words) to inform us about a topic, issue or event that's prominent in or having an impact on you and your community.

We want you to:

Focus on a specific issue, moment or event.

Follow news writing principles, like balance and using simple, everyday language.

Include quotes from one or two interviews.

Be creative and have fun!

To enter the Challenge:

- You must be in Years 10 – 12 in Australia.
- Your news story must be your own work. You can't copy from anywhere else or use AI or copyright material to create it.
- It must be no more than 350 words, excluding the title and reference list (if you choose to include one).
- Your teacher will need to send us your work by **4 April 2025, 5:00pm (AEDT)**.



Education

<https://www.abc.net.au/education>

Term 2 Challenge

UPPER SECONDARY

21 APR – 4 JUL 2025

What hopes, beliefs and values do you have about politics in Australia? Do you feel like you know enough about how democracy works in Australia? What does it mean to you to be Australian? Why are these ideas or issues relevant and important for young people in Australia to understand? Do they matter to you?

The prompt:

In this Challenge, create a short video (up to 3 minutes) to 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.

We want you to:

Have a clear purpose for your video.

Think about the specific audience you want to reach.

Use different techniques to show and share.

Interview one or two people – follow safe media practices!

To enter the Challenge:

- You must be in Years 10 – 12 in Australia.
- Your video must be your own work. You can't copy from anywhere else or use AI or copyright material to create it.
- It must be no more than 3 minutes long.
- 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 **4 July 2025, 5:00pm (AEST.)**

Term 3 Challenge

UPPER 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, create a radio news story or podcast episode (up to 4 minutes) to inform or entertain us about any topic that interests you.

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 10 – 12 in Australia.
- Your podcast episode 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.
- It must be no more than 4 minutes long.
- 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)**.



Education

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Term 4 Challenge

UPPER 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 10 – 12 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)**.