



Engage students with contemporary issues in politics, SOSE, history or English.

My First Speech competition aims to raise awareness of the federal Parliament among young Australians by encouraging students to voice their opinions as if they were making their first speech in the House of Representatives.

The competition is open to Year 10 to 12 Australian school students.

Introducing the project

- *Introduce the class to the My First Speech competition website.*
- *Explain the concept of a maiden or first speech delivered by a member of the House of Representatives.*
- *Initiate discussion by asking students: what makes a good speech?*
- *Ask students to discuss any big national issues that are important to them at the moment.*
- *You can find a range of useful resources such as videos and transcripts at:*
www.aph.gov.au/myfirstspeech

Learning outcomes

Students should have:

- Learned a key function of the Parliament is for elected representatives to debate and express ideas.
- Expressed their own opinions through discussion, speech-writing and oral presentation.
- Communicated an argument and explained their viewpoint.
- Engaged with, reflected on, and researched contemporary issues.
- Explored different ideas, opinions and beliefs about topical issues.

Judging criteria

Keep in mind how the entries will be judged, which includes creativity, originality, language and presentation skills. See Judging Criteria for more details.

Suggested activities

Activity 1: Debate

Set up the class room to represent the House of Representatives: ask students to divide into two sections to debate a contemporary issue.

Activity 2: Identifying issues

Ask the class to work in groups of 5 or less to brainstorm issues/problems in Australian society. Each group should identify:

- Why the problem exists
- Who are the people affected
- Who or what is responsible
- What solution will help

Activity 3: Your member in the House of Representatives

Find out the person who represents your electorate in the House of Representatives. Look up their first speech in the Parliament in Hansard. Discuss extracts from their speech with the class. Do students agree or disagree with the issues that have been raised?