



Edge of the Future

A competition for young people around Australia

Information and Support Package



Speaking 4 the Planet **Australia 2023**
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Speaking 4 the Planet **Australia 2023** Edge of the Future

Competition Summary

1. This Information and Support Package is for the 2023 Australian S4P competition. It contains information about the competition categories, and the judging criteria; it also provides some links to articles relevant to the theme.
2. The overarching topic for the competition is Edge of the Future. Your local council has indicated the subheading – one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). All entries and performances must focus on the overarching topic and your local sub-heading/SDG.
3. The competition will be held online. This package explains how to make your submissions online.
4. This competition is for high school students (aged 12-18).
5. There are four competition categories:
 - **Speaking** – prepared speeches of up to 4mins.
 - **Writing** – have your say in 30 words.
 - **Visual Arts** – a range of materials/ styles can be used.
 - **Performance poetry** – write and perform your own poem.
6. Participation is free for students whose councils are supporting the initiative. If your council is not on the list of supporters (please check the information [here](#)) please contact Phil at phil@speaking4theplanet.org.au to discuss how you might participate.
7. Research is vital. This package contains links to useful articles and programs and talks. All participants are encouraged to do their own research.
8. Participants are to produce or present items that are original. They are also invited to make their work quirky.
9. By submitting their works, participants give permission for their entries to be placed on the Speaking 4 the Planet website and/or used on the Speaking 4 the Planet YouTube channel. Participating councils may also wish to place some of the entries on their websites.
10. The closing date for the competition is 18 August 2023.



Contents

1. Purpose of this booklet.	8
2. Speaking 4 the planet: changing the world, one presentation at a time	8
3. Competition partners	9
4. Competition categories and criteria.....	10
5. Resources	13
6. Submitting your work	14

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With support from



Sutherland Shire
Environment Centre

<https://www.ssec.org.au>



<https://www.paddypallin.com.au>

S4P competitions are supported by the Australian Association for Environmental Education and the World Environmental Education Congress Secretariat



<https://www.aaee.org.au>



<https://weecnetwork.org>

Design and layout by **Petur Farkas**

Living on the edge of the future

Each of us is here at the edge. Every day. The edge of tomorrow.

Sometimes that edge looks like a cliff, a point we are speeding to.

Sometimes, that edge looks and feels like a wall. A barrier too thick. A hurdle too high.

Sometimes that edge looks like an opportunity for improving the way humans do things.

How do we stop falling off that cliff? How do we deal with the barriers outside...and inside? How do we grasp opportunities and bring others along with us to make this world a world worth living in – for all people and all species?

It's not just older people in workplaces or governments or community organisations who are thinking about the future. Young people are also thinking about the world ahead – not just career and study options but also the quality of the natural world. You remember the climate marches and protests: young people wanting not just to have a voice but to be heard. Yes, young people care – some are scared. All have a view about the future – their future world.

This 2023 S4P competition gives you a chance to step up and speak up about your concerns and fears, about your hopes and dreams and ideas, about the work that needs to be done to create a healthy, sustainable world. The competition moment also invites you to think about how you can help bring about such a world.

Use this S4P opportunity to speak through your words, your art, your performance and tell the world what you think needs to happen. Also use this opportunity as a time of change for yourself.

[Here's an article on the importance of speaking up.](#)

[And an article on Speaking 4 the Planet, changing the world – one presentation at a time.](#)

Phil Smith

CEO - Speaking 4 the Planet



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To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness.

What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places—and there are so many—where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction.

And if we do act, in however small a way, we don't have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvellous victory.

Howard Zinn, American historian, playwright, philosopher, socialist thinker (1922 – 2010)



1. Purpose of this booklet

Speaking 4 the Planet competitions create opportunities for participants to express their ideas for a better world. Participants are invited to prepare and deliver punchy, quirky, creative, and pointed submissions. They should seek to influence the thoughts, emotions, and actions of the audience.

This information package is designed to help participants prepare quality entries for the competition. It provides:

- Information on Speaking 4 the Planet and the competition categories
- Links to relevant websites and articles
- Links to judging criteria.

All participants are encouraged to research widely and build evidence-based, powerful, personal, and global messages.

2. Speaking 4 the planet: changing the world, one presentation at a time

Speaking 4 the Planet (S4P) is an arts-based approach to sustainability education. It is a competition for secondary school students that invites students to express their views on matters related to the planet and the future – their future. S4P creates space and opportunities for young people to intertwine humanities and sciences, to philosophise about human actions, and to imagine a better world while standing deep in the science of the world they live in. Youth marches and student strikes are the very public faces of (climate change) protest. Speaking 4 the Planet is an equally powerful opportunity for students to speak up and advocate for a healthy future.

S4P events inspire young people to think creatively, independently, and courageously; they create space for students to ask challenging questions; and they provide opportunities for critical thinking – applause and jeers – about decisions made at various levels of government. S4P creates opportunities for youth voice not silence. The sustainability changes that the world needs won't occur by following existing dogma and practices. New thinking is required. Youthful thinking is required. The arts invite influential ways of communicating through school curriculum areas typically omitted from sustainability education. Speaking 4 the Planet is founded on the belief that science provides the information we need to achieve sustainability, and the arts deliver the vehicles for transformation. Science provides the data; the arts change the world.

Here's a video prepared to support the nomination of S4P for an international Earth Prize. It tells you more about the initiative and demonstrates some of the skills of the students.

Here's a video that says more about S4P: [Advocates 4 the Earth – S4P – YouTube](#)

3. Competition partners

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

For the first time, S4P is partnering with the Australian Association for Environmental Education to host this inaugural competition. AAEE is Australia's peak professional body for Environmental Educators. Members work in government agencies, schools, universities, businesses and community organisations. AAEE does these things:

- Advocates for Environmental Education and promotes best practice.
- Supports and contributes to skills development among educators across Australia and internationally.
- Helps members to stay at the forefront of sustainability education and models of change.



Read more: www.aaee.org.au

PADDY PALLIN

Paddy Pallin has supported S4P since the beginning. Paddy Pallin is the first outdoor and adventure company in Australia, and it's also the first outdoor business to support S4P to connect with the next generation of environmentalists. Paddy Pallin sells clothing and equipment to help you get outside and into nature. Paddy Pallin wants to help maintain the quality of the environment so there's something to enjoy when you get out there!



www.paddypallin.com.au

4. Competition categories and criteria

There are 4 categories in this competition. Note that ALL submissions must focus on the overarching topic AND the subheading Sustainable Development Goal designated by your local council. A poster about the SDG selected by your council has been provided to each school. Details about the specific SDG for each council are also on the website. [Australia 2023 Edge of the Future – Speaking 4 the Planet](#)

Below is information about each of the competition categories.

Speech – Participants prepare and deliver a 4-minute speech on the competition topic. Remember to speak about the edge of the future in relation to the Sustainable Development Goal chosen by your local council.

Speakers will need to state clearly the problem or issue being addressed. They will also need to make links between problems and solutions, and speakers should also use techniques of persuasion that can shift the way the audience thinks and feels about the issues. The time limit is important. Please avoid reading your speech.

Here are some public speaking tips: [Public Speaking Tips – Speaking 4 the Planet](#)

Here's an article with good advice on public speaking; [The communication habits that can undermine women's power – Speaking 4 the Planet.](#)

Here's an article that gives you [Tips for recording yourself on video.](#)

Judging criteria: [LINK](#)

Writing – This category requires you to write only 30 words on the topic of the competition.

Remember to ensure your writing refers to the edge of the future in relation to the Sustainable Development Goal chosen by your local council.

The writing must be prose, not poetry. Submissions that exceed 30 words will not be considered. Submit your writing as a Word document to the portal.

[Here are some tips to help you with your writing](#)

Judging criteria: [LINK](#)



Visual Arts – Artworks need to be related to the competition topic. Artworks can be paintings or drawings. Paint, charcoal, ink, graphite, pen, etc. may be used. You may wish to do a cartoon strip.

Ensure your artwork is about the edge of the future in relation to the Sustainable Development Goal chosen by your local council.

Here's an article that may be of interest:
[Art can Change the World](#)

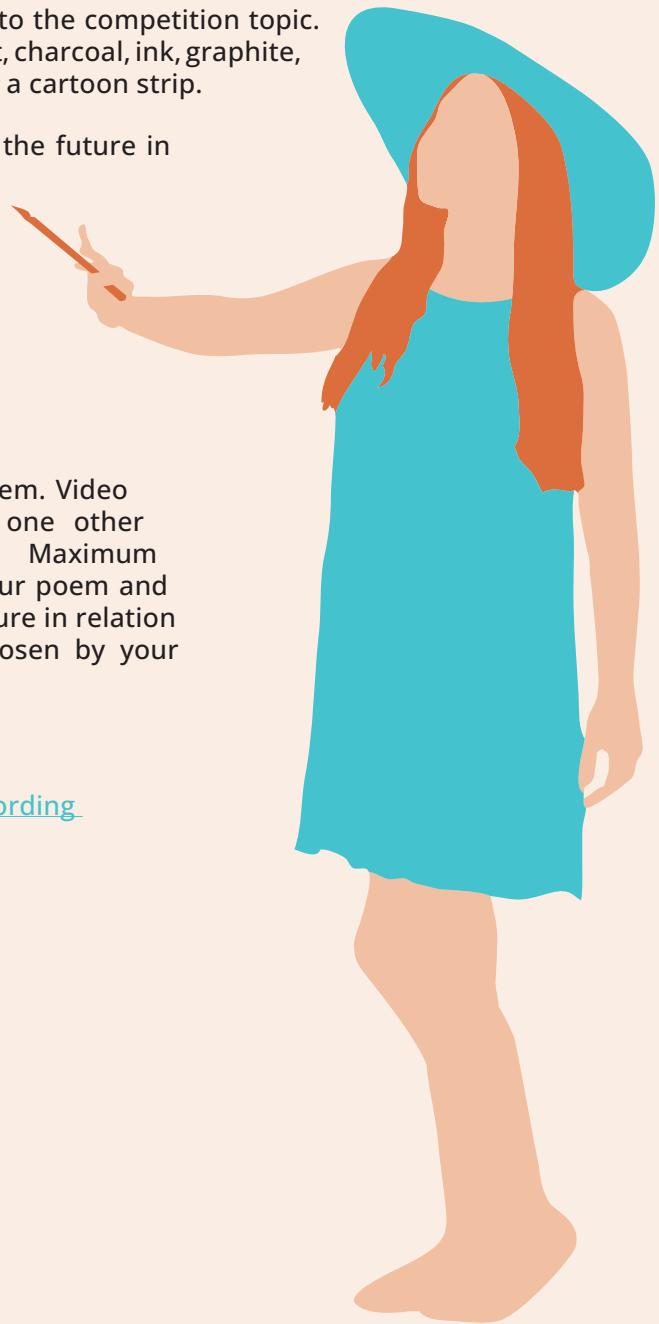
Judging criteria: [LINK](#)

Performance poetry – Write your own poem. Video yourself performing it. You may invite one other person to help with the performance. Maximum performance time is 4minutes. Ensure your poem and performance are about the edge of the future in relation to the Sustainable Development Goal chosen by your local council.

Here is an article; [Tips on Reciting](#)

Here's an article that gives you [Tips for recording yourself on video](#).

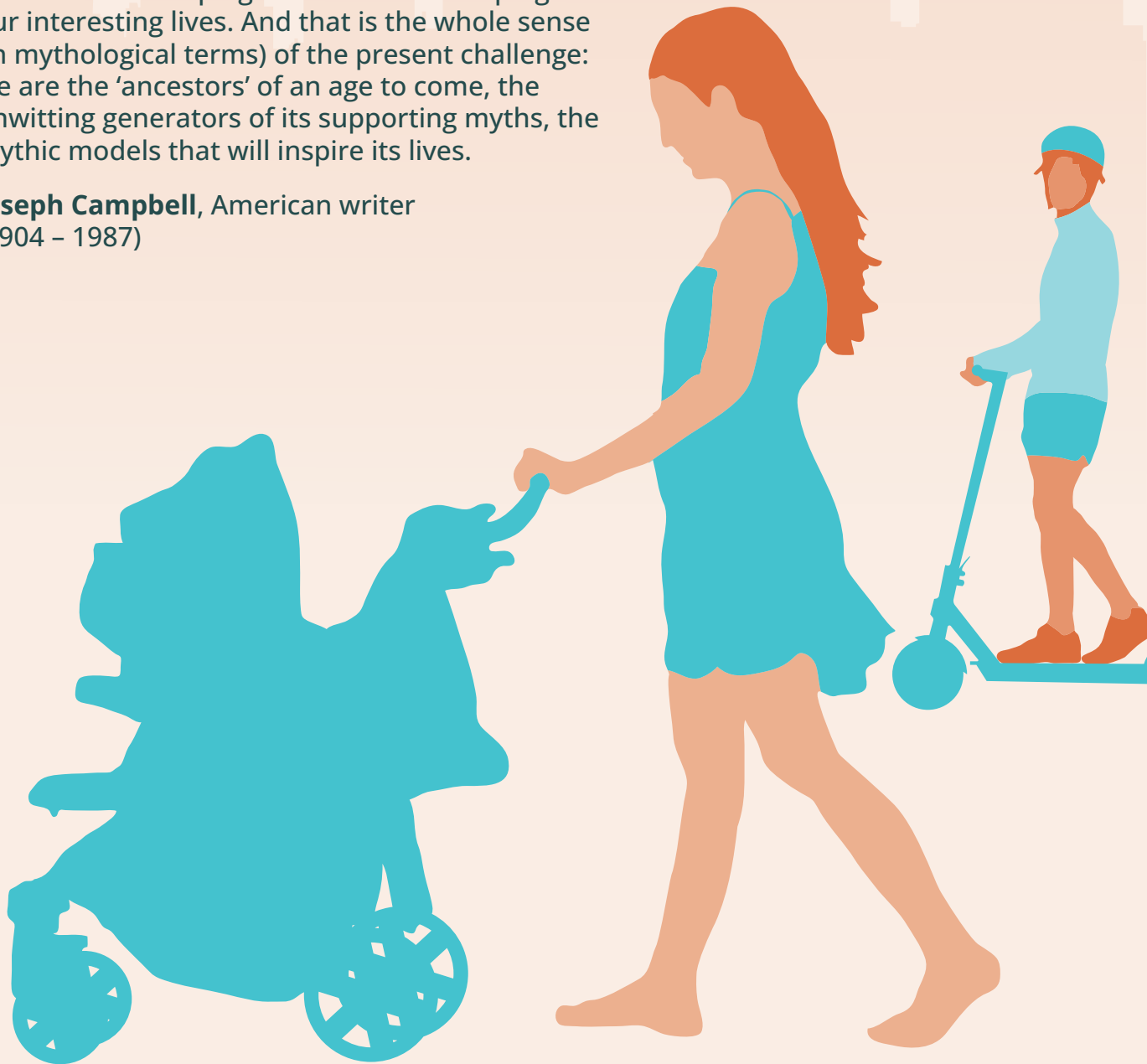
Judging criteria: [LINK](#)



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I have read somewhere of an old Chinese curse: 'May you be born in an interesting time!' This is a VERY interesting time: there are no models for ANYTHING that is going on. It is a period of free fall into the future, and each has to make his or her own way. The old models are not working; the new have not yet appeared. In fact, it is we who are even now shaping the new in the shaping of our interesting lives. And that is the whole sense (in mythological terms) of the present challenge: we are the 'ancestors' of an age to come, the unwitting generators of its supporting myths, the mythic models that will inspire its lives.

Joseph Campbell, American writer
(1904 – 1987)



5. Resources

All participants are urged to research the topic. This section contains just a couple of links to websites that will help in the preparation of submissions. Search for more.

SDGs

It is vitally important that you understand the specific SDG selected for your local area. Read about it. And think about why this particular SDG was chosen. Think about the future – the edge of the future – in relation to this goal.

Find the SDGs here: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

Achieving the SDGs requires the partnership of governments, private sector, civil society and citizens alike to make sure we leave a better planet for future generations.

What are your thoughts on our planet, our future, what and how we consume? How will you represent your views, concerns, hopes and dreams through art or speaking or writing or performance poetry?

Australian Government's Reporting Platform

The Australian Government's Reporting Platform on the Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGs)

<https://www.sdgdata.gov.au>

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Australia's Report on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/development-issues/2030-agenda/australias-report-implementation-sustainable-development-goals>

A History of the Future (TV mini series)

The series comprises four episodes, each of which explores one key aspect of society's future (work, democracy, globalization and climate). It is a fascinating look into the past in order to illuminate the challenges of the future

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11847766/>

6. Submitting your work

All submissions are to be made through the following portal. Click on the link – it will take to you a page with questions about name, age, etc., and it will ask you to upload the video of your speech or the document with your writing.

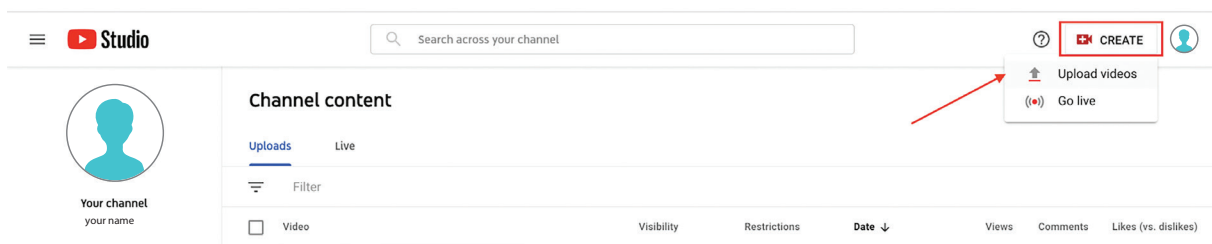
https://bit.ly/AU2023_submission

To submit your speech items as a URL, you must create a channel in YouTube.

- You can sign in with your Gmail account and click on the user icon at the top right of the screen
- Click on the gear icon to get to your account's YouTube Settings
- Click on Create a new channel

Upload your video in the channel and **keep in as public or unlisted**. Do not use background music as it may lead to copyright violations.

- After logging into YouTube, click on the 'create a video or post' button in the top right corner of the page.



- From the drop-down menu, select the 'Upload video' option to be taken to the upload page.

While choosing a privacy setting option, select the option of **"Unlisted" or "Public"**. Once the uploading completed, add a title and a short description of your video.

[Upload YouTube videos](#)

An enduring message

The Earth home: message of a 90-year-old steering assistant for spaceship Earth, William Shatner – Captain Kirk in the tv series, Star Trek.

"Last year, I had a life-changing experience at 90 years old. I went to space, after decades of playing an iconic science-fiction character who was exploring the universe. I thought I would experience a deep connection with the immensity around us, a deep call for endless exploration.

I was absolutely wrong. The strongest feeling, that dominated everything else by far, was the deepest grief that I had ever experienced.

...the deepest grief that I had ever experienced.

I understood, in the clearest possible way, that we were living on a tiny oasis of life, surrounded by an immensity of death. I didn't see infinite possibilities of worlds to explore, of adventures to have, or living creatures to connect with. I saw the deepest darkness I could have ever imagined, contrasting so starkly with the welcoming warmth of our nurturing home planet.

This was an immensely powerful awakening for me. It filled me with sadness. I realized that we had spent decades, if not centuries, being obsessed with looking away, with looking outside. I did my share in popularizing the idea that space was the final frontier. But I had to get to space to understand that Earth is and will stay our only home.

And that we have been ravaging it, relentlessly, making it uninhabitable."



William Shatner, 2022

William Shatner played the iconic role of Captain James T. Kirk in the science fiction television series Star Trek (1966–69) and in several Star Trek films.