

DEBATING RESOURCES AND BECOMING A KNOW-IT-ALL.

Developing your general knowledge takes work. You need to **be aware of the world around you** and pay attention to and harness the resources at your disposal. Developing your general knowledge can be fun and if you are conscientious about reading and listening out for information.

Below are 10 resources and **strategies** that I recommend for developing your general knowledge not just for debating but for your other subjects and for your life (especially dinner parties when you are in your 30's)! Use them to various degrees (depending on your year level and interest)- develop a routine so that each week you top up on news and current affairs.

1. **Set the smh.com.au as your homepage.**
Read the headlines each time you log on, scroll down the page and read the articles which catch your eye.
2. **Set your alarm so that you wake up on the hour/half hour and listen to the news every morning.** 702 Sydney or 546 Radio National are good (they are on the AM dial) or try Triple J (105.7FM). However this can sometimes be a bit depressing!
3. **Listen to more non-commercial radio.** An extension of the above...Try Triple J (105.7), Fbi (94.5), 2SER (107.5) or flick onto 702 Sydney and 546 Radio National (these can be really good at times or really boring at others- check the program guide at www.abc.net.au).
4. **Call talk back radio and voice your opinion.** Check with your parents on this one first...Listen to the issues being discussed, do some research, think about your opinion or develop one, write some points down and see if you can get put on air. Great for practising speaking and rebuttal. AUSTRALIA TALKS BACK on Radio National each night at 6pm and the "shock jock" stations like 2UE...
5. **Watch more of the ABC and SBS TV.** Check the TV guide each week and either watch or tape things that you are interested in- Four Corners, Foreign Correspondent, Dateline, Hot Docs.
Try and balance the amount of commercial drama (OC, CSI, Simpsons, whatever) you watch with the "good stuff" (its kinda like eating your greens). If you have digital TV there are lots of extras and repeats on ABC2.
6. **Subscribe to podcasts (you don't need an ipod to listen).** There are thousands from all around the world. Look them up at the itunes music store. Start with local ones like HACK on Triple J (usually broadcast at 5.30pm each day- 30 mins duration), PERSPECTIVE on 546 RN (a 5 minute monologue from a different speaker/topic each day), BACKGROUND BRIEFING (a one hour radio documentary, kinda like 4 corners).
7. **Use the resources in the library-** they have subscriptions to Time, The Bulletin, The Economist, New Scientist, Nature, New Internationalist, National Geographic and Adbusters. They are free and there for you to use. There is also a stash of older volumes of many of these in the cupboard in 603.
8. **Subscribe to the weekend newspapers.** The Herald offers good deals for the Saturday and Sunday papers for about \$2 delivered to your door. See if your parents are interested in getting a trial.
9. **Keep a scrap book of articles.** If you do the above cut and keep interesting articles. Maybe pick a few topics and keep a file on them....this also helps if you ever have to do a "media file" assignment.
10. **Read www.debatatabase.com.** It's the resources and ideas sacred text for debaters.
11. **Talk to your parents!!!!** Yes, really. Try it. Stop msn-ing people and try talking to them! It's interactive and immediate! And you might just learn something!

Warning- if you take on these techniques, you may end up being more "in the know" than your parents! Be careful, this can be a source of upset for them. Use your newly acquired knowledge wisely and **avoid arrogance at all costs.**