School systems (which had begun in the 1880s) were teaching patriotic songs, stories and verses.

Customs duties hindered trade between the colonies.

Popular writers such as Henry Lawson were writing about Australia as a land and nation made by the struggles of ordinary people.

Laws could be enforced better if accused people could not escape to a neighbouring colony.

Customs duties protected factories in the smaller colonies from goods made in factories in the larger colonies.

Germany and France had colonies in New Guinea and the Pacific Islands and could pose a threat. Each Australian colony only had a small armed force.

Many people moved between the colonies to find work.

Federation would be expensive to achieve and a federated country would be expensive to run.

The colonies had different policies about immigration, trade and other matters.

All the colonies already had parliaments of their own.

New South Wales and Victoria were more powerful than the other colonies.

All the colonies were British and most white people spoke English.

Influential politicians were strongly in favour of Federation and travelled the country giving speeches about it.

Each colony had its own characteristics that might be lost after Federation.

Sporting teams had started to represent Australia. A cricket team in 1877 had beaten England in a Test match.

For or Against Federation?