

Please Join Us in Launching STUDENTSPEAK at www.dispatch.com

A NOTE TO TEACHERS FROM EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR GLENN SELLER

Dear Teachers:

Over the years, many of you have assigned your students to write Letters to the Editor as an exercise in persuasive writing. The Dispatch thinks this is an excellent exercise to help students develop their thinking, writing and rhetorical skills. The newspaper would like to help you in these efforts by publishing the letters your students write.

Until now, because of the sheer volume of letters that such assignments generate, and the fact that the letters typically were written on paper and mailed in, The Dispatch has not been able to publish many student letters. But the Web edition of The Dispatch opens possibilities to provide students with an exciting outlet for their efforts. By submitting student letters by email in the proper format, teachers can give students a forum for their thoughts that will be available not only to them, but to their parents, grandparents and friends worldwide.

Please understand that this will work *only* if the letters are submitted by email.

Here's the procedure:

- The letters should be compiled into a single document and then pasted in as the text of the message.
- DO NOT the letters as an attachment.
- Please insert three asterisks between each letter as separation.
- Please identify students only by first name and the initial of their last name. No other identifying information should be included.
- Please DO include YOUR daytime phone number where Dispatch personnel can reach you for verification and for questions that might arise. These phone numbers will not be published.
- Please include your school name and address, school district and grade level. The school mailing address will not be published.
- Teachers are responsible for ensuring that parents have no objection to publication of their child's letter on The Dispatch Web site.
- Teachers also should review the letters for appropriate language and subject matter, deleting or rewriting as necessary.

Witty, clever and hard-hitting letters are welcome. All letters should be civil. And, all letters are subject to editing or rejection by The Dispatch.

Please send the single e-mail, with all letters pasted into the text of the email, to: studentspeak@dispatch.com

The Dispatch looks forward to your participation in this program. If you have questions not answered here, please call or email Lisa Reuter at 614-461-8857,

lreuter@dispatch.com; or Editorial Page Editor Glenn Sheller at 461-5072, or gsheller@dispatch.com

The Dispatch looks forward to working with you and your students.

SAMPLE OF AN EMAIL LETTER PROJECT SUBMISSION

This is how an email should be configured. All the information below will be published, except for the teacher's daytime phone number and the school address, which will be used only by Dispatch staff for verification and questions.

Teacher's daytime phone: *(Will not be published)*

School address: *(Will not be published)*

School district: *Example:* Pickerington Local Schools

School: *Example:* Ridgeview Junior High School

Teacher: *Example:* Betty Smith

Class: *Example:* 8th-grade English

Assignment: A brief description of the persuasive writing assignment here. For example: "Write a letter to the editor expressing your view of requiring school uniforms for students."

*(Letters should be separated by three asterisks, like this: ***)*

I think this idea is really bad. I don't want to wear a uniform. I want to wear my own clothes. Uniforms are ugly and uncomfortable.

Stacey K.

School uniforms would be good because it would be easy to dress for school each day and everybody would have the same look. Kids wouldn't make fun of other people's clothes, and rich kids wouldn't look any different than poor kids.

Owen D.

I guess school uniforms would be OK, but I wouldn't want them to make us look like nerds. Who would pay for them? My parents?

Lisa R.
