

The anatomy of a good LETTER TO THE EDITOR

- Keep the letter short (no longer than 250 words)
- To write a short letter, pick one or two key points and expand on them using local information, local sources, and local angles
- Letters must be timely to a "hot" issue (i.e. reference it to a recent article)
- Write a strong lead sentence - the first sentence is the most important
- Make first two sentences short and to the point
- Lay out your points a, b, c and explain
- Sentences should not be longer than 10-15 words
- End the letter with a short sentence that ties it to the beginning of the the letter and has a punch
- You're ready to submit your letter to the editor!

Press Contacts – Letters-to-the-Editor

- ◆ **Des Moines Register** - letters@news.dmreg.com or Editor, Des Moines Register, 715 Locust Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50309
- ◆ **The Dubuque Telegraph Herald** - online submission at www.thonline.com/letters.cfm or Letters to the Editor, Telegraph Herald P.O. Box 688, Dubuque, Iowa 52004-0688 or faxed 563/588-5745
- ◆ **The Omaha World Herald** - pulse@owh.com or letters to the Editor, Omaha World Herald Building Omaha, NE 68102-1138 Phone: (402) 444-1000
- ◆ **Cedar Rapids Gazette** - editorial@gazettecommunications.com or FAX: (319) 398-5846 or The Gazette, Letters to the Editor P.O. Box 511 Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406
- ◆ **Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier** - tish.flattery@wfcourier.com or Editor, Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier P.O. Box 540 501 Commercial Street Waterloo, Iowa 50704
- ◆ **Quad City Times** - opinions@qctimes.com or Editor, Quad City Times 500 E. Third St. • Davenport, IA 52801
- ◆ **Iowa Farmer Today** - news@iowafarmertoday.com or Editor, Iowa Farmer Today, P.O. Box 5279, Cedar Rapids IA, 52406-5279
- ◆ **Farm News** - editor@farmnews-iowa.com or Editor, Farm News, 713 Central Avenue, Fort Dodge, IA 50501
- ◆ **Agri News** - wilmes@agrinews.com or Editor, Agri News, 18 1st Ave, SE, Rochester, MN 55903-6118