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Ms. Mary Dudley
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Dear Mary,

Here are some tips for your students in communicating and writing to public and elected officials:

In the first paragraph of the letter, state the purpose of the communication. For example, "I am writing you to urge your support for HB 123, which expands agriculture education to all schools in the Cincinnati Public School District."

In the second paragraph, give the reasons for supporting the legislation. "Ag education in the pilot schools have shown that the students' graduation growth is double that of the rest of the schools in the district. In addition, the attendance rates have gone up and the disciplinary problems have decreased in the schools with ag education.

Always be respectful, and never threaten the elected official with vote boycotts, for example, if they don't support your position.

Make sure that you include your return mailing address, email address, and/or telephone number in anticipation of a response to your letter from the elected official.

End your letter thanking the person for giving consideration to your point of view in the hope that they will agree with your position.

I hope that these tips will help the students become good advocates.

Best regards,


Jim Buchy