

Tips for Cartoonists

Below are some suggestions and references that contestants might find useful when developing an editorial cartoon. **Remember, these are ONLY suggestions and references; they are NOT guidelines or rules for the contest.** For a complete set of guidelines, visit <http://www.kidsvotingdayton.org>

Suggestions for developing an editorial cartoon

(taken [with edits] from <http://www.newscurrents.com/intro/edcartoons/carcon3.html>)

- Be most concerned with the originality and clarity of your cartoon's ideas.
- Select news stories of major continuing interest -- what's news in September may not be news in October, when the contest closes. And few people outside of your family are going to be interested in a caricature of your uncle Ernie.
- Study some professionally drawn editorial cartoons closely before trying to create one of your own. Remember, study them, but don't copy them.
- Don't clutter your cartoon with too many different ideas. Decide on a single point you want to make.
- Use black ink on white paper. Draw in bold lines. Keep lettering large and legible.
- Don't create a cartoon that is just a slogan ("Don't Smoke", "Watch Less TV", etc.). Be funny or thought provoking. Or both.
- Again, and we cannot stress this enough, be original. Your cartoon may express a widely held view of a leader or issue, but it cannot reflect another cartoonist's way of expressing that idea.

Helpful websites:

<http://www.cagle.com/>

<http://www.unitedmedia.com/editoons/>

<http://www.daytondailynews.com/>