

Dear editor:

I am happy to recommend Brandon Smith to the Columbus Dispatch for an internship. We worked at adjacent desks in summer 2008 when he was an intern at the Wilmington News Journal, where I am a staff writer with 14 years experience.

Brandon demonstrated initiative in seeking stories, as well as doing a fine job on articles he was assigned.

Last summer was the height of a major, ongoing story here in Clinton County — the anticipated loss of more than 9,700 jobs in and near the DHL Air Park in Wilmington. I recall Brandon was here on May 28, the day the story broke. While he did some reporting on facets of the multi-faceted story during the summer, what I remember most are his columns on the topic. His first one I believe was unsolicited, and each one of them was quite well done. Needless to say, he was willing to tackle this important and challenging story — even on the Opinion page, no small thing for an intern.

He has a particular interest in writing columns and op-ed pieces, and it shows.

Brandon worked well with others and fit in nicely in the newsroom (which was without an editor for virtually his entire internship). I proofread much of what he produced; his articles were consistently well done and he is receptive to feedback and suggestions.

By the way, he is very good at editing others' work, and invariably would make valuable suggestions on commentaries I wrote over the summer.

He also displayed talent in putting together a video feature for the News Journal Web site concerning a vintage military airplane he rode on during the summer.

Overall, I can recommend Brandon for an intern position with a metropolitan daily newspaper located in the state capital.

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