

How to respond to aggressive military recruiters:

- 1. Let's be polite. We honor military service as we honor anyone who serves our nation; this could also include Americorp or the Peace Corp.**
- 2. Let's offer different perspectives that students should think about before they join the military.**
 - a. Our nation's current recruitment strategy targets poorer individuals who wind up fighting while many wealthy people profit from war. No matter what one thinks about the military or the war in Iraq, it is legitimate to see this as an injustice and to want to correct it.
- 3. Let's acknowledge that the U.S. military has been one of many forces for protecting liberty, but it has also caused a lot of abuse. To get an idea, check out "list of United States military history events" on Wikipedia. Not all of the hundreds of violent incursions listed there were for good causes; for example, the Indian wars, the Mexican-American war, and the Vietnam War.**
 - a. "I knew that I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed in the ghettos without having first spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today -- my own government."
- Martin Luther King Jr.
 - b. **Most Americans do not believe that the current war in Iraq is being fought to protect our freedom.**
 - i. "Last November, the American people delivered a strong message of no confidence in the President's Iraq policy ... Instead, he chose to escalate our involvement in Iraq's civil war ... This proposal endangers our national security by placing additional burdens on our already over-extended military thereby making it even more difficult to respond to other crises."
- Speaker Nancy Pelosi (3rd in line to be Commander and Chief)
 - c. **The best way to honor those who have fought and died for our freedom is to use that freedom to provoke fellow citizens to think critically.**
 - i. **Let's offer people alternative views. If the right to do that is what people in uniform are fighting for, then they should be happy that we are fully enjoying that right.**

Feel free to copy this letter and hand it out to military recruiters on your campus.