

News Debate: Atten-Hut!



Should there be restrictions on military recruiters in schools?

In San Diego, it's not unusual to see members of the military on high school campuses. They aren't there to keep the peace. They are looking for new recruits. Military personnel set up tables stacked with brochures and videos about the armed forces. They also hand out free gifts and games to students who provide their contact information.

The San Diego Unified School District's Board of Education says the military has gotten too aggressive with its recruiting tactics. Board members argue that teens are attracted to the free gifts and sign up for information without considering other options for their future. To limit the military's influence, the board recently approved a policy that would allow recruiters to visit campuses just twice a year.

Some San Diego residents are up in arms about the new policy, however. They say that it will bias students against the military and that it is offensive to those who have served our country. Opponents

of the policy also point out that because there is no draft, or mandatory enlistment, into the U.S. armed forces, the military relies on volunteers to fill its ranks. Should there be restrictions on military visits to schools? *Current Events* student reporters Meriem Djelmami-Hani and Devon Robinson battle it out.

Go Army!

High schools should not place restrictions on military recruiters. That would promote negativity toward the military and discourage students from enlisting in the armed forces. Schools should welcome military recruiters honorably, not keep them away. Guidance counselors, teachers, and administrators should support students wanting to join the military just as much as they support students wanting to attend college.

In addition, students at the high school level are not going to base their futures on free gifts. They are much wiser than that. Nothing but their own motivation is going to convince teens to join the military. "Teenagers love free stuff, but not if they have to sacrifice anything," says ninth grader Ian Koch from Mequon, Wis.

Furthermore, high school students enjoy taking an in-depth look at the possibilities for their futures. If military recruiters can visit high schools only twice a year, students will not get a full picture of how the military works and whether it is right for them.

Go Home!

There should be a limit to how often military recruiters visit high schools. Students need to know that they have other options after they graduate besides joining the military. Their options include two - or four-year colleges and vocational schools.

In addition, the military should not target teens, because they are too immature to make decisions about joining the armed forces. Many teens are attracted to the gifts that the recruiters offer and enlist without thinking through their decision.

Moreover, many high schools have Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) programs embedded in their curriculums, so military officers work at those schools daily. My school also sponsors Military Day, a day to see the armed forces in action. That is more than enough exposure to get students thinking about whether they want to enlist. Susan Freeman, principal at Deltona High School in Deltona, Fla., agrees. "Military recruiters should have limited visits on campus if they are only there to recruit students," she says.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. How do high school students in San Diego receive free gifts and games from the military?

- A. by enlisting to serve in the military
- B. by providing their contact information
- C. by showing proof that they are students
- D. by signing up for vocational schools

2. The passage shows two sides of this debate: Should there be restrictions on military recruiters in schools? According to the passage, what is one argument in favor of having no restrictions on military recruiter visits?

- A. It lets students get lots of free gifts and games.
- B. It gives students a full picture of how the military works.
- C. It discourages students from enlisting in the armed forces.
- D. It let students see why joining the military is the right choice.

3. What can you most likely conclude about San Diego residents after reading the passage?

- A. Most residents agree with the policy to restrict military recruiter visits.
- B. All the residents have relatives that were once drafted into the armed forces.
- C. The residents that disagree have children attending high school in San Diego.
- D. Most residents are upset because they served in the military years ago.

4. Read this sentence from the passage:

"The San Diego Unified School District's Board of Education says the military has gotten too aggressive with its recruiting tactics."

In this sentence, the word **tactics** means

- A. voluntary members
- B. awards or honors
- C. rites of passage
- D. plans of action

5. The primary purpose of this passage is to

- A. explain why military recruiters choose to visit high schools
- B. present both sides of a debate about military recruiters
- C. describe the pros and cons of joining the armed forces
- D. persuade high school students to learn their future options

6. What does ROTC stand for?

7. How might principal Susan Freeman feel if military recruiters had unlimited visits to campus? How do you know? Please provide evidence from the text.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Military personnel visit high schools and set up tables with brochures and videos _____ provide students with information about the armed forces.

- A. to
- B. for
- C. but
- D. or

9. Vocabulary Word: exposure: the condition of being acquainted with something.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence:
