

TABLING

The Equal Access Law makes it possible to table counter recruitment literature and other “Options for Youth.” At Roosevelt HS, we had college literature, brochures on what you should know before enlisting, and about the myths and realities. The MEChA Club was at the table, and chose to tie dye their own T-shirts with anti war slogans. We also used a questionnaire that asked students opinions about the war in Iraq, if they knew about Section 9528 of the No Child Left Behind, and how they felt about recruitment. We had spoken word artists perform and students read letters from soldiers in Iraq. The teacher sponsor for MEChA requested the table, and other teachers came out to support this effort. The concept of tabling can be creatively adapted for different purposes.

Through the year, we saw a noticeable increase in counter recruiters and decrease in military recruiters. And I would venture to say that as our numbers of students grew, their numbers waned from around 20 representing all branches of the military to 4 service members. The student participation and ease in talking with students also grew from 5 to 20. Also the student counter recruiters became appreciated and supported by the administrators who were trying to advance college and other options.

Tabling was a success. At Sylmar High School the students themselves initiated tabling across from the military. They talked with their peers and gave out information.

Countering the Military at Garfield HS- August 2007

-Pass out brochures about the realities of the enlistment contract, what you should know.

-Have a table to have literature, including Opt Out forms and buttons

-Last year, students at Garfield made their own signs such as “Education not Militarism” “Books not Bombs” “I’m Not the Army” and walked around the school.

-Survey the students asking questions that helps provide information and education with questions such as:

1. Do you know about Opt Out? (if not explain the details)
2. Have you received unwanted calls or military contact?

Review District Policy Bulletin 2067.1 that states:

-No student is required to speak to a military recruiter

- Students may protest the military via written materials or peaceful demonstrations on campus.

-Military recruiters must not harass students, and if they do, students should report this to the commanding officer and to CAMS 626-799-9118

3. The ASVAB and JROTC are voluntary classes. No one should be put into the program or take the test without fully understanding what it's about.

-Have counter recruitment music, television showing a counter recruitment video (Before you Enlist). Invite local musicians such as Chango Macho, or Zapoteca Roots moreponk70@hotmail.com myspace/zapotecaroots.

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