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SHOULD MILITARY RECRUITERS BE ALLOWED ON HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUSES?

Word Generation - Unit 1.17

Focus Words

accommodate | bulk | confine | route | unethical

Weekly Passage

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have increased the need for new military recruits. But where can they be found? Lately, the Pentagon has been looking for new soldiers in public high schools. However, not all high schools are targeted equally. Military recruiters usually go to schools located in poor neighborhoods, where the <u>bulk</u> of the students come from low-income homes. Critics of this approach to military recruitment call it <u>unethical</u>. They say the military is exploiting poor communities when they <u>confine</u> their outreach programs to particular schools. Some call it "the new poverty draft."

During the Vietnam War, the military required all young men to sign up for military duty. Without a draft in place now, the military is recruiting kids who don't have access to college or good jobs by promising them decent pay and a chance for higher education. A new law called the Solomon Amendment requires high schools to provide the names of their students to military recruiters. If a school refuses to <u>accommodate</u> the government's request, school funds may be withheld. Supporters of the approach believe it's the most efficient way to build the armed forces. They say that students in certain schools are more likely to join the military, so targeting them directly makes sense.

In many countries, everyone of a certain age is expected to serve in the military. What <u>route</u> do you think the U.S. military should take to build its forces?

Unit 1.17 - Should military recruiters be allowed on high school campuses?

Focus Word Chart

Word	Meaning	Forms	Examples of Use	Notes
accommodate	(v.) – to help; to adjust to or go along with			
bulk	(n.) – majority			
confine	(v.) – to limit			
route	(n.) – path; approach			
unethical	(adj.) – wrong; unfair			

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Problem of the Week

Federal rules say that public schools must **accommodate** military recruiters' requests for information about students. Some say it is reasonable to allow recruiters to communicate with high school students about military careers. Others say this **route** to building the military is **unethical**, because it targets struggling students and students in economically depressed areas where jobs are hard to find. As a result, when America goes to war, these young people bear the burden. Should recruiters **confine** their efforts to older people with more life experience? Or is it fair to open our schools to the military, and offer students a choice?

Parents can stop the release of information about their child. However, in most cases, when this choice is presented, the **bulk** of parents do not respond.

Option 1: At Fairport High School, 80 parents out of a total of 1,500 gave permission for the school to release their child's information to military recruiters. What percent of parents gave their permission?

    A) about 3%
    B) about 20 %
    C) about 8%
    D) about 5 %

Option 2: Olympia High School has over 1,000 students. Fewer than 50 parents asked to withhold their child's information from recruiters. If parents didn't ask to withhold information, it was assumed that they consented, and the information was released. Based on this information, what percent of students had their information released?

Math Discussion Question: Fairport High School was found in violation of federal rules for failing to **accommodate** military recruiters' requests for information. Like other schools, Fairport sent a form to parents that allowed them to give or deny permission to release their child's information. As expected, the **bulk** of parents did not respond one way or the other. However, unlike in other schools, Fairport did *not* release the information of students whose parents did not respond. Instead, it **confined** the release of information to students whose parents had given explicit permission. Military recruiters said the school was unfairly blocking an important **route** to new recruits. School officials said it was **unethical** for them to release information without explicit parental approval. What do you think?

Should military recruiters be allowed on high school campuses?
Debating the Issue

1. Get ready...

Pick one of these positions (or create your own).

A Military recruiters should recruit in high schools serving poor students. The military is a great option for kids who can't afford college.

B Military recruiters should recruit in all high schools. It's not fair for them to just target poor neighborhoods.

C Military recruiters should not be allowed to recruit in any high schools. High schools should be places where students prepare for college and non-military jobs.

D The United States should require all students of a certain age to serve in the military for a year or two. This will be more fair because everyone will do their part.

E _____
_____
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GO!

Be a strong participant by using phrases like these.

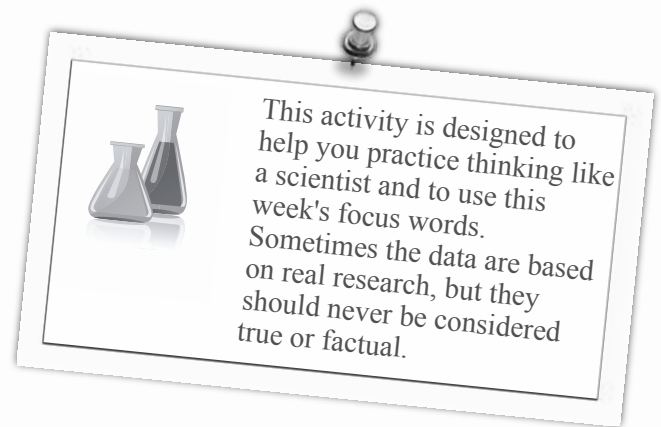...because...

I disagree with part of that...

An example might help convince me. Can you give me an example?

What part of the passage makes you think that?

2. Get set...

Be ready to provide evidence to back up your position during your class discussion or debate. Jot down a few quick notes:

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Science Activity

This activity is designed to help you practice thinking like a scientist and to use this week's focus words. Sometimes the data are based on real research, but they should never be considered true or factual.

Professor Seemy says, "I don't mind **accommodating** military recruiters at our school. Different students choose different **routes** through life - technical school, college, the military… but the **bulk** of them make good decisions."

"I don't know about that," said Professor Kahn. "Our students' brains aren't fully developed – they aren't ready to make big decisions. Some teens **confine** themselves to a career in the military without being able to completely understand the risk. It's **unethical** to treat them like adults."

Is Professor Kahn right? The professors decide to investigate teens' ability to evaluate choices, based on how quickly they identify good choices versus bad choices.

Question:
Will teens take longer to evaluate choices than adults?

Hypothesis:
Teens will take longer to evaluate choices than adults.

Materials:
- 100 teens
- 100 adults
- 10 "good idea" cards
- 10 "bad idea" cards

Procedure:

1. Prepare 20 cards. On 10 cards, write suggestions that are clearly good ideas (for example, "wear a seatbelt"). On the other 10 cards, write suggestions that are clearly bad ideas (for example, "jump off a roof"). Mix up the cards.

2. Show each subject the cards, one at a time.

3. Ask subjects to press a "good idea" or "bad idea" button as fast as they can, after they see each card.

4. Time each response.

5. Calculate the average response time for adults and teens.

Data:

	Adults	Teens
Average response time (in seconds)	1.2	1.6

Conclusion:

Is the hypothesis supported or not by the data?

What evidence supports your conclusion?

How would you make this a better experiment?

Writing Prompt

Should the military be allowed to recruit in high schools?

Support your position with clear reasons and specific examples. Try to use relevant words from the Word Generation list in your response.

Focus Words

accommodate | bulk | confine | route | unethical

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