



How to Handle Hate Speakers

Hate speakers thrive on attention and publicity. They use provocative language in an attempt to “hook” people.

Why does the university *allow* hate speakers on campus?

The University of California willingly serves as a prominent public venue for open and free exchange of ideas (www.vcsa.ucr.edu). The Bell Tower is a public venue where any person can exercise their First Amendment rights, as long as other policies regarding time, place, and manner are not violated. Hate speakers, though unpopular, are *usually* acting within the law and university policy.

Students do not have to be silent. Some effective strategies that others have used include:

- Ignore the hate speakers completely. Do not give them any media attention. They will likely leave campus if they do not have an audience.
- Do NOT touch any of the hate speakers. Some of these groups fund themselves by claiming they were “touched.”
- Conduct a positive campaign of buttons and banners - “Not in R’ House.”
- Form a “moving circle of love” - surrounding hate speakers. Hide them!
- Counter-schedule another unity event at the same time.
- Create a fundraiser for a positive group on campus. Every time the haters use words like ‘fag’ or other explicatives have pledgers donate a \$1.

Information brought to you by the UCR Hate Bias Response Team. www.stophate.ucr.edu



How to Handle Hate Speakers

Hate speakers thrive on attention and publicity. They use provocative language in an attempt to “hook” people.

Why does the university *allow* hate speakers on campus?

The University of California willingly serves as a prominent public venue for open and free exchange of ideas (www.vcsa.ucr.edu). The Bell Tower is a public venue where any person can exercise their First Amendment rights, as long as other policies regarding time, place, and manner are not violated. Hate speakers, though unpopular, are *usually* acting within the law and university policy.

Students do not have to be silent. Some effective strategies that others have used include:

- Ignore the hate speakers completely. Do not give them any media attention. They will likely leave campus if they do not have an audience.
- Do NOT touch any of the hate speakers. Some of these groups fund themselves by claiming they were “touched.”
- Conduct a positive campaign of buttons and banners - “Not in R’ House.”
- Form a “moving circle of love” - surrounding hate speakers. Hide them!
- Counter-schedule another unity event at the same time.
- Create a fundraiser for a positive group on campus. Every time the haters use words like ‘fag’ or other explicatives have pledgers donate a \$1.

Information brought to you by the UCR Hate Bias Response Team. www.stophate.ucr.edu