

America Says **NO**

More Troops!

A Nationwide **Surge** of Protest Of The US Military Occupation of Iraq

Agenda

1) Welcome and Introduction

Thank everyone for coming and state simply why you are all there. [Download our “talking points” page for suggestions.] Talk about the events and actions that will follow including the March on Washington, January 27; Lobby Day at the nation’s Capitol on January 29; and “Meet-Up With Your Member” week starting on Tuesday February 20 – the first District Work Period of the new Congress.

You may want to invite community leaders who have helped organize the event to speak briefly, explaining why the members of your community are saying NO to president Bush and the war in Iraq.

2) Pass the petition around as people gather.

Download the "mandate for peace" petition from the Event Kit page, so people can sign at your event. The petition is one way people can be involved in the big "Out of Iraq" march on Washington on January 27th. We'll be hand-delivering these petitions to Congress as part of that event.

3) Take a photo of your event to upload to an online “national family photo” gallery.

This is easy, but also important – we'll be compiling the photos from all across America and presenting them to the press to show that Americans do NOT agree with the President's plan to escalate our troop numbers. If you have a videocamera or a videophone, you can even record a personal message to Congress from your group, and upload it (we'll provide instructions and help).

To conclude your event, you may want to read the names of servicemen and women from your area who have been killed in Iraq – we're providing a list for your state – as a reminder of why we're doing all this. Or you may choose to stand in silence for a few moments. Then thank the people who attended for coming.

As people depart, offer them the take-home petition, which also includes reminders about other upcoming opportunities to work for an end to the Iraq War.

Tips:

- Invite your local newspaper and television station to the event beforehand. This is easy -- simply send them the sample press release provided in the organizer kit, and follow it up with a phone call reminding them about your event. They'll appreciate this – it's the main way that newspapers and news crews find stories to cover every day.
- At the event, get people involved by giving participants things to do Pass the list of casualties around for people to read aloud. Ask people to pass the petitions around and collect them at the end of the event.
- **Remember to bring a camera!**