Someone knocks on your door, and you don’t know who it is...

If you are a resident of this room, try to bring someone to the door with you to listen as you speak with the visitor.

Ask if they are housing security, police, or working with or for housing security or the police. If they are, ask if they have a search warrant.

If they do have a search warrant, you are required to let them enter your room, but you are not required to speak to them.

If they do not have a search warrant, then you are not required to let them enter your room.

You have the right to keep your door closed and stop all communication with the officers. However, it is generally a good idea to talk to them at least to find out why they have stopped by your room.

If you choose to speak to the officers... you may speak to them without letting them enter your room.

you may speak to them without even opening the door.

you may speak to them outside in the hallway.

at any time, you may end your conversation.

Use a conversational tone. Don’t be confrontational. Don’t be rude. Don’t ever get physically aggressive. If you speak to them out in the hallway, try to bring someone out with you to listen.

The officers may try to elicit something to give them reason to think that a crime is taking place so that they can enter your room without your consent (they may badger you with questions, pump you for information, outfox you in conversational gambits, quickly look in your room as you open the door, etc).

If you get a question that you are uncomfortable answering, don’t lie, and don’t try to give a long explanation. Instead, just politely decline to answer. Remember, you may end the conversation at any time.