

## IT'S EASY TO BE PROLIFE

# When critical thinking is applied to the abortion issue

Using critical thinking allows people to form opinions on issues facing us today. When applying this thought process to the issue of abortion and arguments put forth in the name of being “pro-choice,” the natural intellectual conclusion is the prolife perspective.

## MATTER OF INDIVIDUAL CHOICE

**PRO-CHOICE:** Abortion is a matter of individual choice because no one can say with certainty when a fetus becomes a person.

**PROLIFE:** Basing support for abortion on a vague notion of “personhood” avoids the facts. This life and death issue doesn’t have to be decided using religious, moral or philosophical arguments; there are also inarguable scientific facts. Because science proves human life begins at fertilization, abortion ends a human life and is clearly a violation of basic human rights.

## IT’S MY BODY

**PRO-CHOICE:** Every woman has the right to control her own body and make her own reproductive choices. A fetus is a part of a woman’s body because it is dependent on her for survival in the womb.

**PROLIFE:** This argument fails to recognize the scientific reality that a pregnant woman has already reproduced and that the child growing inside of her is not part of her body but a completely different human being with a different body and DNA. The baby has his/her own blood type, heart, brain and may have different colored eyes, hair and complexion. From the moment of fertilization a new, unique human being is present. The word “conceive” is actually a synonym for the word “produce.” Besides, even after birth, we are all dependent on others for many years.

## IT’S A PERSONAL MATTER

**PRO-CHOICE:** The government shouldn’t interfere in this highly personal issue.

**PROLIFE:** As Thomas Jefferson, one of our founding fathers, wrote: “The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only object of government.” In modern society, it is naive to suggest that government can be absent from this debate on the protection of human life. Laws regulate areas much less fundamental than the right to life. The real issue is whether the government will fulfill its responsibility to protect and preserve innocent human life or continue to allow this most basic right to be denied.



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## **PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN MY LIFE**

**PRO-CHOICE:** A woman may need an abortion because of personal circumstances that make it impossible for her to care for a young child.

**PROLIFE:** You have to ask yourself, why has it become acceptable to some to sacrifice a child's life as a means of solving problems? A woman has many choices for life. If she wishes to raise her child there are programs to provide her with counseling, housing, medical care, job training, food, clothing and other services to help her in this situation. In many situations, adoption is a good option for both mother and baby.

## **ONLY USED IN CASES OF RAPE/INCEST**

**PRO-CHOICE:** Abortion is used only as a last resort and is frequently used in cases of rape, incest or danger to the mother's life. Women must have the right to abortion because of these widespread problems.

**PROLIFE:** The truth is that abortion has become a widely used method of birth control in this country. Nearly half of all abortions are repeat abortions. Since 1973 more than 50 million abortions have been performed in the United States. About 1 percent of these were performed for reasons of rape and incest. Only 4 percent list "physical problem with my health" as the most important reason for the abortion. Rape and incest are horrific crimes, however, abortion doesn't undo the harm that has been caused. All unborn children, regardless of how they were conceived, are living human beings who deserve to be protected. The unborn child is the second victim of the crime and shouldn't be treated as if he/she was the attacker.

## **PERSONALLY OPPOSED TO ABORTION**

**PRO-CHOICE:** I personally oppose abortion, would never personally have an abortion and will work to lessen the number of abortions, but I think abortion should stay legal.

**PROLIFE:** Why are you personally opposed to abortion? Why would you never have an abortion? Why do you want there to be less abortions? The only reason to be personally opposed to abortion is because abortion intentionally takes the life of an innocent human being. If you believe abortion kills children do you really think killing children should remain legal? If abortion doesn't take the life of an innocent human being, why should there be less abortions?

## **BACK ALLEY DANGEROUS ABORTIONS**

**PRO-CHOICE:** If safe and legal abortions are not available, women will be driven back to the days of dangerous back-alley abortions, resulting in needless injury and even death.

**PROLIFE:** According to the Centers for Disease Control, in 1972, the year before abortion was made legal throughout the country, 39 women died from illegal abortions while 24 women died from legal abortions. In a 1960 American Journal of Health article, Planned Parenthood's then-medical director, Mary Calderone, concluded that "90% of all illegal abortions are presently done by physicians."