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Intro

The topic I chose is a debate that is known worldwide. Pro-life or Pro-choice? It is found in our politics, churches, media and social lives. Whether you are for or against abortion, I feel like each side has valid arguments and I would like to explore both sides a little more and I'll share my thoughts as well.

I chose this topic because I've always been drawn to the discussion, and I am personally pro-choice. I feel like as women we all should reserve the rights to make decisions for our bodies. However, I chose this topic because I want to learn about both sides of this. Especially the opposing side because I know how pro-choicer's feel. I want to know what fuels either side, because there are respectable viewpoints from both side no matter your belief. ✓

What makes this debate so unique is that we shouldn't even be having it. Roe v. Wade decided back in 1973, that women have a constitutional right to abortion up to a certain point. The fact that almost 50 years later in 2022, this law that has been protecting women's rights has been overturned. This was devastating news to women and men around the world. Roe v. Wade has protected women who have been the victim of tragedies and unfortunate events. They were given a choice, a chance to start over without being forced to become a mother. Unfortunately, in this age that we live in these women that experience being assaulted and end up pregnant, do not have the security of having that choice. My goal is to help us better understand both sides of such a hard topic, and to gain knowledge, and better understanding of what this debate truly is. ✓

Source 1: America Media – The Jesuit Review. [americamagazine.org](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_enzePQ85c) (2016)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_enzePQ85c.

Entry: This source is a video on YouTube by content creator, America Media. They interviewed 7 millennial women—socialist, libertarian, Republican, independent—all of them pro-life. The authors main purpose was to let those watching know that the stereotypical old, white guy image of pro-lifer can be erased. There are young women of different races and backgrounds, each with different stories supporting their decisions.

Reflection: I believe the authors point was to educate watchers that this movement is supported by people in different circumstances and having different upbringings. Showing from the viewpoint of millennial pro-lifers that this movement is more than just abortion it includes dedicating resources aiding in, single motherhood, poor mothers/children and the death ✓

penalty... Prior to watching, I thought this was only brought up in regard to abortion. This video was more so informative about the decisions and thought process behind being a pro-lifer. It's one question nagging me as I watched the video... wouldn't Pro-lifers care about the life carrying the child? Does only the fetus' life matter?

Quote: "Pro-life isn't just about abortion, it's about the death penalty, it's about single motherhood."

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Source 2: David Masci, Senior Research Fellow, "Pro-choice Does Not Mean Pro Abortion: An Argument for Abortion rights". (2008)

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2008/09/30/pro-choice-does-not-mean-pro-abortion-an-argument-for-abortion-rights-featuring-the-rev-carlton-veazey/>

Entry: This source is an interview transcript between a Researcher at the pew research forum, and Rev. Veazy, President of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. The interviewer asks the Reverend a series of questions inquiring how he could be pro-choice as a Christian. He asks the Rev. about the rights of a fetus, to which he responded he does not believe the fetus should have legal rights. He speaks about statistics, stating most abortions are performed within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, this is an example to show women are not just carelessly aborted a 2 and 3 trimester fetus.

Reflection: This interview gave me better insight into the mind of a Christian pro-choicer. The Rev. was very respectful of all other viewpoints and religions while making his points. I have to say that I agree with his thoughts on the topic, he's not just giving his opinions these are life experiences he's witnessed by growing up in the church. He has attested to personally experiencing black and poor women that couldn't afford their unexpected pregnancies, they went to back alleys for abortions because it wasn't legal, and some died. Pro-Lifers always talk about how selfish it is to abort but at times due to living situations, finances and family issues it can be more selfish to bring a child into such a dysfunctional world.

Quote: "You know, a lot of people say, you must bring this child into the world. They are 100 percent supportive while the child is in the womb. As soon as the child is born, they abort the child in other ways. They abort a child through lack of health care, lack of education, lack of housing, and through poverty, which can drive a child into drugs or the criminal justice system."

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✓ Source 3: Manninen, B. A. (2014). Pro-Life, Pro-Choice: Shared Values in the Abortion Debate (1st ed.). Vanderbilt University
<https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv16758p6>

Entry: What the author is saying in this book is that although the abortion debate is often portrayed as deeply divided between pro-life and pro-choice positions, both sides share several important values. At the heart of the issue is a concern for human life, dignity, and compassion. Both pro-life and pro-choice advocates care deeply about the well-being of women, families, and children — they simply prioritize these values in different ways.

Reflection: Bertha Alvarez Manninen writes from a pro-choice standpoint, but she gives serious consideration to pro-life moral concerns, especially around the value of the fetus. She attempts to find common moral ground between pro-life and pro-choice camps; She references Judith Jarvis Thomson's article "A Defense of Abortion", Thomson presents the analogy, you wake up plugged into a famous unconscious violinist who needs your kidneys for nine months to survive. If you unplug yourself the violinist dies. So, she argues that while the violinist has a right to life that it does not have the right to use your body to sustain its life. I agree with the authors points and its supporting material. uneven spacing

Quote: "Every reproductive choice, from contraception to abortion, is a decision about parenthood—to put it off, decline it altogether, accept it reluctantly, or embrace it eagerly. Because parenthood is such a radically identity-altering undertaking, and because the consequences of forced parenting affect all involved, including the child, it is not a decision that should be made on anyone's behalf."

✓ Source 4: Schwarz, S. D., & Latimer, K. (2012). *Understanding abortion: from mixed feelings to rational thought* (1st ed.). Lexington Books.

Entry: The book presents both sides of the abortion debate fairly and objectively. Rather than promoting a single viewpoint, it explains the core ideas and reasoning behind each position, allowing readers to form their own opinions. Though concise, the book offers detailed and thoughtful analysis of topics often overlooked in other works. It aims to help readers understand the arguments on both sides and demonstrates that abortion is not just an emotional issue, but one that can be examined through rational discussion.

Reflection: Schwarz and Latimer spoke from the pro-life viewpoint, making the point that abortion is wrong because the fetus has the same right as any

human being. The authors acknowledge the fact that many people have mixed feelings and sympathize with women in difficult situations while still feeling uncomfortable about the act of abortion. In chapter 2 the authors argue that the fetus is not a part of the mothers body but actually their own separate individual. They believe that life begins at fertilization and for that we must acknowledge it as a person with rights. I disagree, how can a fetus withhold so much power over another person's body, so much so that a woman doesn't have the right to make her own decisions. Do we leave our decisions up to fetuses now ?

Quote: "I'm Personally Opposed to Abortion, but I Think it Should be Legal".
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Conclusion: Beginning my research, I didn't know much about pro-lifers as a pro-choicer, but during my research, I learned that their perspective is deeply rooted in ethical and moral considerations regarding the sanctity of life. I also gained a greater understanding of the pro-choice viewpoint, which emphasizes bodily autonomy, reproductive rights, and the complex circumstances that influence decisions about pregnancy. Exploring both sides revealed that abortion is not a straightforward issue; rather, it involves nuanced ethical, social, and legal dimensions that deserve careful consideration. This research has shown me that fostering informed, respectful dialogue between opposing viewpoints is essential to understanding the broader societal implications of abortion and to approaching the issue with empathy and critical awareness.

I learned to throw out the stereotypes of the protesters and zealots at planned parenthood. We may have different viewpoints but each valid in its own right. Ultimately, even amid this strong disagreement about laws and moral boundaries, recognizing these shared values can open space for more empathetic dialogue and cooperative problem-solving. It reminds us that the abortion debate is not just about conflict, but also about a shared desire to protect life, promote dignity, and support human flourishing. This is literally two groups with the same goal, who are having a hard time understanding one another.

I think the more we research the more open we become to accepting opposing opinions. I used four different sources one favoring pro-life, one favoring pro-choice and 2 explaining and dissecting both. I felt like this was give whoever is reading no matter their affiliation may become more accepting and empathetic moving forward we all have different morals, and some align better with others. The specific group I would like to know about

ABORTION PRO LIFE OR CHOICE

my research is the Pro-Choicers such as myself to inform them, I'm not trying to change anyone's mind. I just want us all to be knowledgeable, I'm hoping in the near future we can find some common ground and Roe v Wade will be reinstated.

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