

Apologetics Tips

Answers for common pro-choice arguments.



Remember:

1. Lead with compassion.
2. Listen to understand, not just win.
3. Ask questions to understand the other person's view.
4. Find common ground.

"We Don't Know When Human Life Begins"

1. Science is on our side. Life begins at fertilization.
2. We know that the fetus is alive because it grows through cellular reproduction, metabolizes food for energy, and reacts to stimuli.
3. The fetus is human because it has human parents and human DNA.
4. The fetus is a whole organism. Nothing is added since the point of fertilization except proper nutrition and environment—the same things that adult humans need.
5. Clarify by asking, "Are you talking about biological humanness, or something more philosophical, like whether the fetus is a person who should be protected from violence?"

"My Body, My Choice"

1. Affirm that bodily autonomy is important.
2. Dependence upon someone else does not diminish equality or human dignity.
3. Every day we follow laws that restrict what we can do with our bodies.

"What about rape?"

1. Affirm the horror of rape. It is an act of violence against an innocent person.
2. Spend a little more time affirming the horror of rape.
3. Rapists should go to prison.
4. Rape is traumatic. It is an act of violence against an innocent person.
5. Abortion does not remove the trauma of rape. It is yet another act of violence against an innocent person. It adds another layer of trauma.
6. Human dignity is not defined by the circumstances of our conception.
7. In no other scenario do we punish someone for the crimes of his or her father.

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"Abortion is healthcare."

1. Health care is healing, not hurting.
2. There's nothing healthy about pitting a woman against her child. Abortion harms them both.

"What about overpopulation?"

1. The world is not overpopulated.
2. Care for the planet isn't healthy or authentic if it harms the planet's people.
3. We would never suggest killing a group of people to help with population control.
4. If the unborn have the same moral value as born people, we should not kill them, either.

"Without abortion, more children will end up in foster care."

1. Distinguish between adoption and foster care. Foster care is designed to reunify a family. Adoption happens immediately, and there are families waiting to adopt.
2. Acknowledge concern that children may be kept by bio parents who aren't prepared and eventually end up in the foster care system.
3. The problem is that this view says that potential hardships that a child might endure mean that the child is better off dead.
4. This treats poverty and instability like a disease from which the child suffers, and the solution offered isn't to treat the disease but to kill the child instead.
5. There are a lot of people who went through the foster system and became happy or accomplished adults. There are also a lot of people who went through the foster system and continued to have hard lives and perpetuate negative family patterns.
6. Value rests in WHO they are: human beings deserving respect and protection, even in the womb.

What to say about IVF, surrogacy, and other artificial reproductive technologies.

1. Artificial reproductive technologies bring life into the world at a cost: the destruction and dehumanization of many young human beings.
2. Artificial reproductive technologies exploit women and children, turning them into commodities.
3. Infertility is difficult, but there are more ethical, affordable, and effective options for treating infertility than artificial reproductive technology.

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"More birth control will eliminate the need for abortion."

1. Ask why there are still abortions and when they think birth control would make them go away.
2. Second, ask them what they think should happen when contraceptive methods fail. Be prepared to talk about the failure rates of different methods of birth control.
3. Note that the prevalence of birth control has risen alongside abortion.
4. The reasons people use birth control are similar to the reasons used for abortion.
5. Many forms of contraception can actually cause early abortions.
6. There's no evidence that contraception and access to contraception effectively reduce the abortion rate.

"Planned Parenthood does lots of good things."

1. Planned Parenthood is the leading abortion provider in the United States.
2. Statistically, Planned Parenthood provides only a negligible amount of actual healthcare services to women. (See: Planned Parenthood handout)
3. Anything good that Planned Parenthood does is meaningless because it also kills innocent human beings.

"What about ectopic pregnancies?"

1. Clarify that pro-life laws allow exceptions for ectopic pregnancies. We want women to get the care they need. Tragically, in ectopic pregnancies, only one life can be saved.
2. Life-of-the-mother cases are handled best at a hospital. You don't need broad abortion access or for Planned Parenthood to exist to handle these tragic cases.
3. Broad abortion access denies the right to life. Necessary medical care to save the life of the mother affirms it. The goal is to save as many people's lives as possible.

"Abortion bans only stop safe abortions."

1. The abortion rate doubled immediately after abortion was legalized, making it clear that more women wanted legal abortions than illegal ones.
2. We can't hold the law hostage because of citizens threatening to hurt themselves.
3. The potential of back-alley abortions is not enough to justify the legality of deliberately killing innocent humans.