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## Why is Abortion even an option?

### 1. What I already know and don't know about abortion and why it's legally still an option.

When I was thinking of different topics to write about, I had three cross my mind. I thought about which one I really wanted answered the most and why it's important to me. Abortion really hit home with me. I've had two friends who have had them, and one regrets her decision and one doesn't. I also have another friend who chose life for her child instead. This really got me thinking about when I see those billboards saying, "Don't be a murderer, be Pro-life." If this is such an issue, and so many people are against it, why is it even legal? First of all, I just don't understand how anyone could kill a child inside them. It just isn't right. Abortion is also a painful process, and sometimes the effects can lead to never being fertile again. So this is another reason why I don't understand why women choose to do it. I really want to know the effects on women after they have an abortion. Many women feel so much regret that they're never the same again. I also don't know what drives a woman to think that this is her only option. There are so many people out there who want to have kids and can't. These couples are willing to adopt too, so why not give your baby a chance at a good life instead of none at all.

Yes, people might look down upon you for becoming pregnant if you are still a teenager, but wouldn't you think they would look more down on you if you chose to kill your baby? I just really don't understand why the government doesn't take more action and ban

abortion all together. This way every child would at least get a chance at a good life, and those who can't have children but would like to adopt, would also get more of a chance to do so.

## **2. Why I want to answer this question.**

I want to answer this question because I want to find out the government's reasons for not banning abortion. Also it makes me sad when I think of how many babies die each year and how they never get to experience life. Those babies could have been movie stars, politicians, doctors and many more amazing things, and they'll never even get a chance at all. I have relatives who want to have kids and they can't so I just really want to know the main reasons why women have them. I also have two friends who have had abortions but we haven't really talked in depth about why they did it and how it was dealing with their decision. So I want to understand why and how they felt during the process and after.

### **The story of the search.**

When I was thinking of what types of research to use, I thought of magazines, newspapers, and websites; the normal types. I thought I could maybe find some of the answers to my government questions in government documents or websites. The other questions however couldn't really be answered in books, because I want to know about personal feelings, reactions and effects. So the only effective way to get real answers for this, is to ask people who've had abortions. Luckily, I have two friends who have had abortions and one who chose life over abortion. I had interviews with these people and asked them questions about their individual situations.

My first interview was done by my friend and co-worker Brittany. She has been dating her boyfriend for about five years now and they're very serious. However, her senior year in

high school she found out she was pregnant and wasn't sure what to do at the time. She knew abortion was wrong, but it was too late for the morning-after pill. Her mother was very religious, and Brittany didn't think that she would approve if she had a child. Brittany thought she had so much life ahead of her like college, jobs, and she just wasn't ready to be a mom. She felt her boyfriend was not ready to be a father either. Brittany said, "I panicked and didn't know what to do, and I just thought a baby doesn't deserve a mother like me right now. I also didn't want the shame from the whole town."

She said she doesn't regret doing it because it was the right decision for her at the time. However she did say that there are times when she wonders how her life would have been if she would of kept him or her. She said after she had the abortion she didn't eat as much, but it wasn't as far an eating disorder though. Brittany also was depressed after that for a few months, but eventually became back to normal. She hopes to someday have kids, but claims that it just wasn't the time for her.

The next person I interviewed was my friend Abby. Abby is currently 21 years old and got pregnant in March of her senior year. She told me that from the beginning she never thought about abortion, it was just wrong in her eyes. Her parents were shocked but very supportive; however, her boyfriend's parents were not. Since we live in a small town and they were one of the wealthier families, they were embarrassed this happened to their son. It was very hard for Abby, but she had a beautiful baby girl named Madeline. Now everyone in our hometown loves Maddy, and her ex-boyfriend's parents do also. Abby said she was scared at first, and she had all these questions going through her head. She wondered how she was going to pay for everything, if she was going to be able to still go to college the next year, and where they would

live. Abby was very lucky because her parents were so supportive and helpful. She is currently attending Allen College to become a nurse, and she has her own house with her daughter.

Maddy's dad lives in a different town, but she still gets to see him. Now when people look at Abby, they see a young woman who really has her life together. I think this example goes to show that even though people may look down upon you at first, they do change and start to accept reality.

Abby said, "I know I made the right choice, and I really can't imagine my life without her today. My life is still going exactly the way I want it to." This is a great example of Pro-life. Times are going to be hard and it's not going to be easy, but in the end keeping your child is the right choice.

My third interview is of a girl in my high school, Hillary. I actually drove Hillary to get the morning after pill twice, and she also had an abortion. She had really low self-esteem and a boyfriend who cheated on her. When I asked her why she chose abortion she said she felt as if she didn't have another choice. I then asked her about how she felt after she had the abortion and these were her words.

"I got really depressed, I cried a lot and devoted all my time to school work, exercising, and I never hung out with my friends. I also lost a lot of weight, everyone thought I was anorexic. I wasn't though, I just ate very little and very healthy and worked off everything I ate. I was depressed, and I just didn't know how to go back to normal."

She told me she regrets her choice, but at the time she felt it was the only thing she could do. I've discovered depression is a major effect of having an abortion. There are also many other side-effects you can have. For example, anorexia and isolating yourself from others.

My next source was totally unexpected and random. I was at work in the break room talking about the issue with one of my co-workers who is Pro-choice. She stated if they take away the choice to abort, then they will start taking away more of women's rights. She also asked me if I thought it was ok for a woman to have her baby if she was raped or if it's incest. I told her that because of today's society, that's what is expected of women in that situation. If they get raped, the automatic solution is abortion. This is society's fault. Why do they think that? To me if a woman would get raped and become pregnant, she would have the baby. She wouldn't necessarily have to keep it, but she would have it because everyone deserves a chance at life. After that, it's her choice if she chooses to keep it or put it up for adoption, but that is what a real woman would do in my eyes. She would be a role model to me and many others because of the choice she made. She wouldn't be thinking about herself or what society would think of her, her choice would be all for the baby. My co-worked Jonna said she disagrees because there are some women who are on drugs or have a piss poor life. In these situations, Jonna thinks that there's no chance for the baby anyways, so you should just let it be in a better place. To me that's bull. That's an excuse women who become pregnant use because they don't want the responsibility of a child. I know many people who were adopted, and they have the best parents they could've asked for.

After researching the 1973 Roe vs. Wade case, which legalized abortion throughout the United States, I didn't really find any information that was beneficial to my question. They wanted to give women a choice, and that's why it became legal but it didn't answer anything I wanted to know. I wish I could've came across some personal stories from women back then. However, I think a few other shocking sources answered my question.

The movie, "Listen to me" was very helpful to my question. It gave me information, but it also was very emotional and really hit home in my heart. The girl in the movie was on a debate team and the issue they were debating was abortion. Her team was about to lose to the Harvard debate team until she stood up and told everyone something she had never confessed before. She was raped when she was 14 and had an abortion. Since then, she has never been able to trust men and she's been unhappy with herself. She never had a choice about what to do. She was just told she was having an abortion, and no one cared what she wanted to do about the situation. Since that day she's had trouble with herself because she wonders what that life would be like today and if she would be different. She stresses the fact that if she could have had the baby, he or she would have been one more life that could of made a difference in the world today.

The movie was a very powerful source, but I also discovered another unusual one. I was walking to my class last Wednesday, and I was passing the fountain in the middle of Campus. An old man was sitting there holding a sign that said pro-life and a picture of a baby on it. I just stopped and observed him and what he was doing. All of a sudden a male student came up to him and said, "Hey, I don't really know why you're here because I'm all for abortion and killing babies if they're not wanted."

The old man was stunned, as was I, and he replied to him, "That's terrible, you should be ashamed of yourself for thinking like that."

He continued to shout things at him as the young boy walked away. I had to agree with the old man, it really hurt my heart the way the young man said what he did. I understand everyone has a right to their own opinion and freedom of speech, but that was just way out of

line. The old man didn't say anything to him to make him say those things. I just wanted to say to that boy, "You know, you could have been one of those babies that was aborted, but you weren't because your mother chose to give you life."

I could tell this old man was upset and frustrated so I went up to him and said, "Don't give up, your words are important to many others."

He replied, "Thank you, it's good to know there are some people who understand the seriousness of the issue."

This man just wanted to get his voice out, but of course the people in society shut it down. They just don't take it seriously.

### **3. What I learned and failed to learn about this issue.**

This last experience with the old man was the most effective I think. People don't take abortion seriously, and to me that's a part of why it's legal. There's my answer. The reason it should not be legal is for those who use it as a form of birth control. They just think of it as a part of life. If they don't use protection its no big deal, just call the abortion clinic and it will all be ok. Well it is a big deal! Killing a child is against the law and this should be too. I've also learned that many women feel the pressure of society or even from their own parents to have abortions because they don't want to be looked down upon. To me I look down upon those who have abortions. The ones we should be proud of are the girls who kept their babies and are making something out of their lives and proving to the rest of the world that it is possible and they can do it.

What I failed to understand is society. How dare we make people feel like a disappointment for getting pregnant. It's not just the women's fault it is just as much the man's.

Every person in this world has made a mistake, so why are one person's worse than another's? We are all sinners so why is it worse for an unmarried girl to get pregnant? It makes no sense at all. So I guess I failed to learn why society thinks this way, but in the meantime I learned that they are the main part of the problem. Until society's attitude changes then people's decisions won't. Which means the answer to why abortion is even an option is simply this. Anyone who doesn't feel bad and have some effects after having an abortion is not taking it seriously. Those who use it as a form of birth-control, shame on them. Their mothers didn't so why do they continue to do so? The government needs to address the seriousness of the issue and realize that this has become out of control. So unless people understand that it's a serious matter it will remain the same.

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