



Critical Thinking: Pro-Choice

Eddie S. Jackson

Pro-Choice

Eddie S. Jackson

Kaplan University

HU345: Critical Thinking

KAPLAN UNIVERSITY

Abortion. Even merely uttering the word can sometimes begin a debate. There are many important social and ethical questions surrounding abortion, like “Should it be legal?”, “Is there a right to life?”, “Is a woman’s decision important?”, thus over time has formed large, contrasting groups with arguments on each side. The two main opposing forces at work here are pro-life and pro-choice. The pro-life group believes that abortion should be made illegal as it is considered murder, and pro-choice considers abortion a woman’s right, the right to privacy and personal choice; I am an advocate of pro-choice. And, when it comes to the media coverage of abortion, there is no shortage of pictures, videos, radio and television broadcasts. This paper is about abortion, but more importantly it is about analyzing the abortion media coverage, determining the *pathos* and *logos* about abortion, looking into some of the images surrounding the topic thereof, why I choose pro-choice over pro-life and persuading you towards the pro-choice side of the argument.

Firstly, let us begin with the general media coverage of abortion. Have you ever noticed that the media is slightly biased on the issue of abortion? They lean towards pro-choice. From having a “fringe” news anchor covering a pro-life story (which communicates a certain irrational undertone to the public), to covering stories about religious fanatics killing abortion doctors (which sends the message that all pro-lifers are just plain crazy), the media seems to be pro-choice. This is no mistake either. The media has accepted that women have the right, the freedom, and the personal constitution to govern their own lives. In almost every case, women should be allowed the privacy to determine whatever the right decision may be for themselves. I agree with this viewpoint. Pro-choice is ultimately about personal freedom, freedom that is guaranteed to each American citizen through the United States Constitution and Declaration of Independence; life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

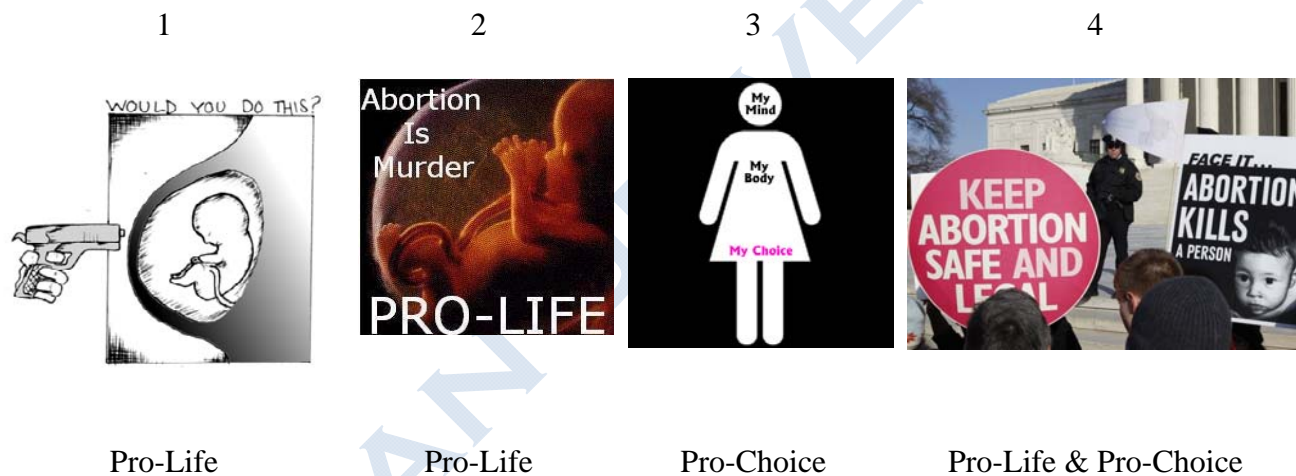
Secondly, touching briefly on the pro-lifer's positional stance on abortion, I believe that many of the arguments presented by the order of pro-life followers, appeals to the *pathos* of people, meaning it plays on their emotions. The pro-choice ideology follows in a completely different direction, appealing to the *logos* of people, meaning it is more logical and has sound reasons that are usually backed by evidence. The emotional state of pro-lifers has a tendency to be irrational, fanatical, angry, and in several cases downright deadly. Whereas, when it comes to the pro-choice adopters, they strive for tolerance, public acceptance, and just a general consensus that a person's private life should be their own. For example, on the concept that abortion clinics should be legal and available to all women and what it means to the philosophy of each of the opposing forces. Anti-abortionists will tell you that if abortion clinics do not exist, women will not have abortions. Pro-abortionists will tell you that women are going to have abortions whether or not abortion clinics exist, which of course is true. Long before there were abortion clinics, women were having abortions. In many scenarios, the "back-alley" abortions were so risky, that many women died. This hardly seems ethical in these modern times that we live in. Another fallacy with anti-abortionists is that they overgeneralize the topic of abortion, saying women who have abortions are evil, are sinners, or even worse are murderers, which once again is completely way off base.

Pro-abortionists, on the other hand, recognize the uniqueness of the individual and the exclusivity of personal circumstance. I also agree with this concept. Not everyone is same, and should not be treated the same. When it comes to the evidence supporting their argument, pro-abortionists bring a large amount of overwhelming evidence to the table, such as: unwanted children heavily burden the education system; they inundate our healthcare system, as well as can contribute to overall poverty, higher crime rates, and violence in the long term. They also say that not every woman is ready to be a mother. Likewise, there are women's rights and privacy to be

factored into the abortion equation. It would be better for everyone if abortions were accepted as a common resolution of personal choice. I would go as far as to say that it is a mistake to legislate laws that oppress women, invade their privacy, and steal personal freedom of choice, especially when it comes to what they can and cannot do with their bodies. Any intelligent human being should be able to recognize that the *pathos* of abortion is an important viewpoint, however the *logos* nature of pro-choice is just too great to be overlooked, and should not be taken lightly.

Thirdly, I would like to analyze some of the visual images for pro-choice and pro-life.

Let us evaluate the following images:



Images number one and number two represent some of the extremist viewpoints of the pro-life group. The fallacies of the images are where is the mother? The images do not take into account the health, the mental state, or even the maternal capacity of the potential mother. Image number one shows a hand holding a gun aiming at a fetus, with the question “WOULD YOU DO THIS?” This insinuates that abortion is the same as shooting a fetus, except for the fact if you were to actually do this, the woman would most likely be killed as well. The second image has a picture of

a fetus with the caption “Abortion Is Murder” and the subtext of Pro-Life. Both pictures appeal to the *pathos* of the viewer, trying to convince you that abortion is very simply to be considered murder. The misconception in these images is that abortion is more complex than just labeling the process as murder, because the reasons and the decisions behind abortion are more complex. Image number three, a pro-choice image, is a visual, stenciled representation of a woman with three text fields that read “My Mind”, “My Body”, and “My Choice”. In these days, in these modern times, a woman’s right and the decisions she makes, should be considered paramount above all else. This visualization is a perfect summary of these rights. As for the fourth image, there are both pro-life and pro-choice represented outside a courthouse gathering. The pro-life poster reads “FACE IT...ABORTION KILLS A PERSON” and they show a picture of baby, almost toddler age; once again trying to reach the emotions of their viewers through skewed imagery. The pro-choice group is holding up a sign that reads “KEEP ABORTION SAFE AND LEGAL”. They are trying to appeal to the logical senses of their viewers; without legal abortion clinics, women would be put at greater risks, perhaps even death. Overall, the visualizations say it all. Pro-life is emotionally charged, whereas pro-choice is trying to gain acceptance through reasonable ideologies.

Abortion has been a hot topic for quite some time with large, opposing forces fighting, rallying, and arguing over the subject. There is also no shortage of media surrounding the social importance of confidentiality and the right to life. But which do you choose? Whose side are you on? What is the right decision? Well the answer is simple, choose pro-choice as each individual has distinct circumstances, and should not be governed by black and white laws that are meant to treat every situation as the same. I believe if we are to maintain freedom, privacy, and sensitivity to the issue of abortion, along with supporting the uniqueness of each abortion itself, pro-choice is the

only choice.

KAPLAN UNIVERSITY

References

Memering, Dean and Palmer, William, (2006, 2002), Critical Thinking: Discovering How to Compose and Analyze Arguments, Boston, Massachusetts: Pearson Education, Inc.

Cover page illustration

<http://www.cafepress.com> (n.d.). Pro Choice Button. Retrieved (07/17/2011), from http://www.cafepress.com/+pro_choice_button,33763404

Illustration 1 of 4

<http://lewiscrusade.wordpress.com> (09/19/2010). Would you do this?. Retrieved (07/17/2011), from <http://lewiscrusade.wordpress.com/2010/09/19/>

Illustration 2 of 4

<http://rabbleprochoice.tumblr.com> (n.d.). Rabble. Retrieved (07/17/2011), from <http://rabbleprochoice.tumblr.com/post/393052978/ashh94-i-am-100-pro-life-be-the-voice-for>

Illustration 3 of 4

<http://feministsforchoice.com> (05/20/2011). Pro-choice News Roundup. Retrieved (07/17/2011), from <http://feministsforchoice.com/pro-choice-news-roundup-6.htm>

Illustration 4 of 4

Young, Jim (02/3/2011). New York City's abortion rate double the national average. Retrieved (07/17/2011), from <http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/108586/20110203/abortion-new-york.htm>