



<http://abortion.procon.org/>

## Should Abortion Be Legal?

The debate over whether or not abortion should be a legal option continues to divide Americans long after the US Supreme Court's 7-2 decision on *Roe v. Wade* declared the procedure a "fundamental right" on Jan. 22, 1973.

Proponents, identifying themselves as pro-choice, contend that abortion is a right that should not be limited by governmental or religious authority, and which outweighs any right claimed for an embryo or fetus. They argue that pregnant women will resort to unsafe illegal abortions if there is no legal option.

Opponents, identifying themselves as pro-life, assert that personhood begins at conception, and therefore abortion is the immoral killing of an innocent human being. They say abortion inflicts suffering on the unborn child, and that it is unfair to allow abortion when couples who cannot biologically conceive are waiting to adopt.

Using this ProCon website, which has facts, statistics, and viewpoints from both sides of this issue, as well as the Taking Sides article, **take a position and write a persuasive essay over the question, should abortion be legal?**

Be specific by backing up your position with evidence: statistics, facts, quotes, court case decisions, studies, etc. Don't just argue your point, but also argue why the opposing view's position is wrong or misguided in your view.

### **Requirements:**

- 3-4 pages
- typed
- double-spaced
- 12-pt. font size, Times New Roman font
- must have a title to your paper
- must include specific quotations from the reading that are correctly cited in-text
- refer to the attached rubric for more specifics as to what I will be looking for

**Persuasive Essay Rubric**

**INTRODUCTION and CONCLUSION (15pts)** – How well did you start your paper and summarize your position? Do you have a clearly stated thesis? How well did you end your paper and summarize your position?

0            5            10            15            \_\_\_\_\_

**HISTORICAL CONTENT (50 pts.)** – Did you use specific examples from the reading, the ProCon site, and other handouts to back up your argument? Do you use specific quotes from the reading and website? Do you argue why the opposing view’s position is wrong?

0            10            20            30            40            50            \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSUASIVENESS (15 pts.)** – How persuasive was your argument?

0            5            10            15            \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAMMAR, PUNCTUATION, SPELLING (15 pts.)** – Did you proofread your paper to make sure there weren’t any errors? Correct use of in-text citations?

0            5            10            15            \_\_\_\_\_

**MISC. (5 pts.)** – Is your paper the required length? Title? Typed? Correct font?

0    1    2    3    4    5            \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_ /100**