

# Handout 1: Introduction to Abortion

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Group #1

## 1. Introduction (pp.1-2)

First, on p.1-2, Kaczor indicates some of the people/groups that abortion impacts, quickly note & discuss these & then try to think of any groups or people he did not include. Present your results to the class. Second, the topic of abortion raises several hard questions. Name a couple of these and write the question you think is most important on the board. Try to explain why this question is important and how it might be helpful to have this question in the back of your mind when writing your final paper.

Group #2

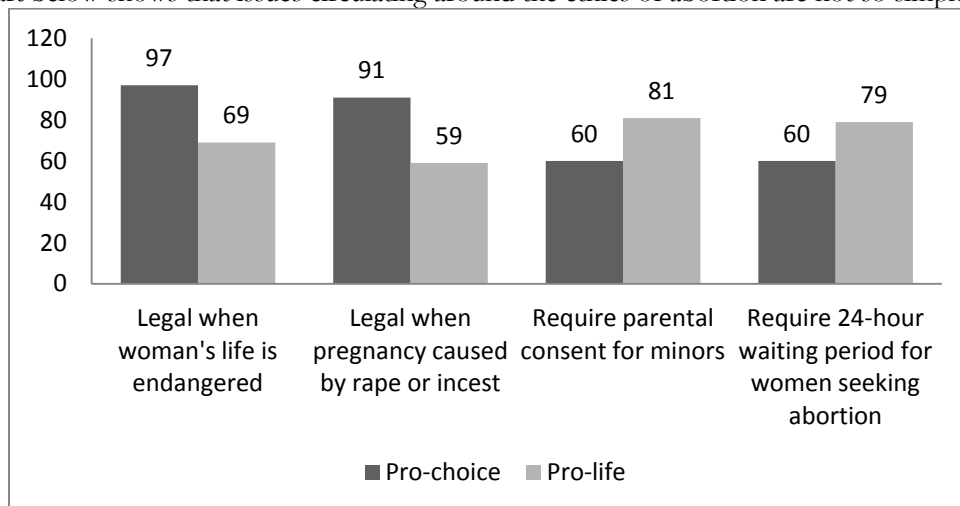
## 1.1 How Should We Talk About Abortion (pp.2-4)

Many people have *strong* beliefs about abortion and so you might be tempted to say that there is **no point** in talking about it. You might, as the ethical subjectivist says, state that it's all just personal preference. First, on the board, write a list of moral beliefs that were once debated but are now settled. Be sure to explain how they were settled. Second, explain *three* different **ways** that people have changed their views on the morality of abortion (use any famous people as examples, you can use the book or search the web).

Group #3

## 1.1 How Should We Talk about Abortion (pp.4-6)

First, one important distinction is between *doing something immoral* and *being an immoral person*. Articulate and illustrate this distinction the best you can. Second, it can sometimes be tempting to make the discussion of abortion an **either/or** situation, you are either for abortion or against it. Explain to the class how the chart below shows that issues circulating around the ethics of abortion are not so simple.<sup>1</sup>



Group #4

## 1.2 Loaded Language (pp.6-7)

Debates about abortion sometimes contain language that is loaded or unnecessarily inflammatory. First, write the following terms on the board:

pro-abortion, pro-death, anti-choice, anti-woman, pro-choice, pro-life

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<sup>1</sup> Data taken from: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/148880/Plenty-Common-Ground-Found-Abortion-Debate.aspx>

Second, explain what is meant by each of terms, note which of them are inflammatory. Third, note the two that are the most neutral and why we should use these when writing/talking about abortion (you can stress how this will be important for the final paper). Lastly, point the class to where the following terms are defined: **human fetus**, **infanticide**, and **contraception**.

Group #5

### 1.2 Loaded Language (pp.7-8)

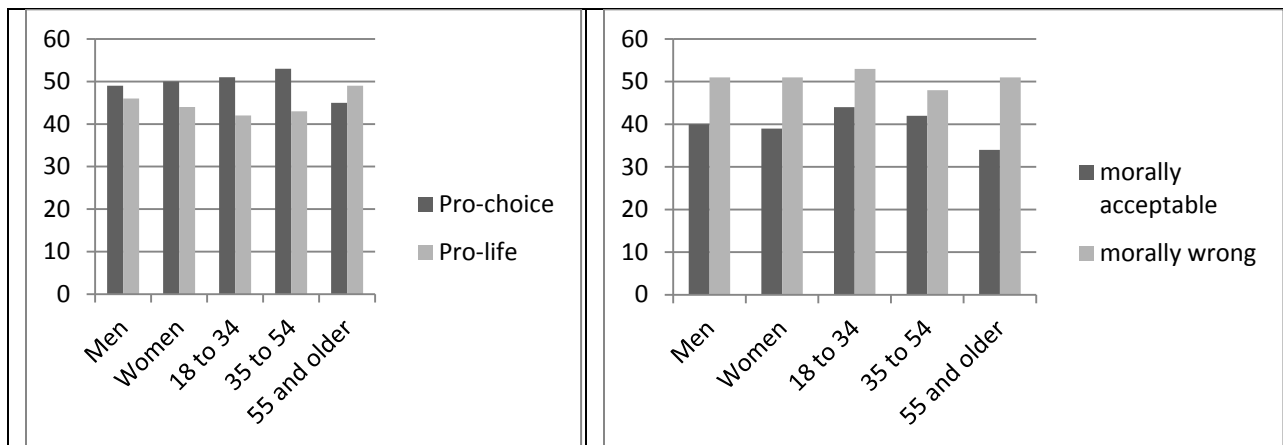
How should we define “abortion”? Explain one way we *shouldn’t* define abortion and explain why such a way is problematic. Finally, think of one way that people *talk* or *argue* about abortion that is inflammatory or counterproductive (you can use the web to help you).

Group #6

### 1.3 Women and Abortion (pp.8-10)

First, while there is reason to pay *more attention* to the **beliefs** of women about abortion than the beliefs of men, there is a problem with saying that “all women think *p*.” In thinking about this claim, first study the two charts below.<sup>2</sup> Next, explain to the class what is wrong with saying any of the following:

- (1) *most women are pro-choice*
- (2) *all women are pro-life*
- (3) *all women think that abortion is morally acceptable*



Group #7

### 1.3 Women and Abortion (pp.8-10)

While we should pay more attention to the views of women, there are serious problems with the following kind of argument:

- P1: All or most people of a certain kind believe *p*.  
 C: Therefore, *p* is true.

Explain the central problem with the above argument. Second, there is reason to pay attention to the *physical & psychological* **benefits and harms** abortion cause women. These issues tend to be empirical in nature. List a few of these harms.

<sup>2</sup> Data taken from: <http://www.gallup.com/Search/Default.aspx?q=abortion&s=&p=1&b=Search>