Student name
Grade 8/Required task
ELA/Ms. Walker
*\*HIGH EXEMPLAR*

*A Woman’s Right To Choose*

 There are two sides to the abortion argument; Pro-Life and Pro-Choice. Most people who are Pro-Life believe that abortion should be outlawed almost completely, the only exception being rape cases. Conversely, those who are Pro-Choice generally believe that the option to abort a pregnancy should ultimately the decision from woman who is pregnant for her own reasons as an individual. Personally, I strongly believe in a woman’s right to choose. I believe so because there are many women who often find themselves in situations which are more complicated than what meets the eye. In addition, for many women, having a child can cause emotional turmoil such as post-partum depression or financial turmoil leading to welfare or even poverty. Overall, I believe that every woman has the basic right to be in control of her own body.

 Women who experience unwanted pregnancies can find themselves in this situation for a number of reasons. These reasons range from cases of rape, incest, health concerns, and various other complicated scenarios. Granting a woman the right to have an abortion in the case of rape should be simple; if a woman says she was raped, sexually assaulted and thus, becomes pregnant against her own will, she should certainly not be denied the choice to abort her pregnancy, particularly due to the traumatizing and violent nature regarding the way in which she became pregnant in the first place. *Kidshealth.org* defines rape as “forced and unwanted... A rapist uses actual force or violence — or the threat of it — to take control over another human being. Some rapists use drugs to take away a person's ability to fight back. Rape is a crime, whether the person committing it is a stranger, a date, an acquaintance, or a family member” (3). Still, some people argue that “an intoxicated woman cannot be raped,” or “if the perpetrator is her father or spouse” then the act itself it is not “technically” rape. I might ask those who question the nature or “definition” of rape resulting in unwanted pregnancies to ponder the following notion for a moment; *would your argument waiver if the woman in question was your own daughter, sister, wife, or loved one?* Would it then be questionable as to whether or not a woman who has been sexually assaulted and became pregnant as a result has the right to choose whether to have an abortion or not? Think about it. One law even says that a woman who has had sexual intercourse before cannot be raped because “the damage is done”.

 In other cases and oftentimes, women choose or consider abortion due to the fact that they simply cannot afford to raise a child nor provide a suitable upbringing and household for her child. Many Pro-Life supporters argue that these women can simply “put the baby up for adoption,” however; this decision can be emotionally damaging to the adoptive parents, birth parents, the families of the birth parents, and the child being adopted and displaced from his or her birthmother. Studies, documentaries, adoption agencies and research suggest that an overwhelming amount of children who have been adopted often struggle (as adolescents and even as adults) with emotional confusion and tend to question *why* they were put up for adoption in the first place? The feeling of being “unwanted” or simply displaced by this or her birthmother can emotionally scar a child for the rest of their life. “After adoption… issues arise such as: how and when to tell the child [they are] adopted; the child's search for knowledge; the problem of subsequent divorce; the birth of a natural sibling and the involvement of other family members” (1). The biological parents, particularly the mother, can also experience emotional confusion and various phases of grief including: shock and denial, sorrow and depression, anger, guilt, and even remorse. Friends and family of the birth parents may try to ignore the adoption by pretending that nothing has happened because they don’t understand what the birth parents are going through.

Generally, if a pregnant woman chooses abortion over adoption, there is good reason for it. Perhaps she cannot financially or emotionally support a child and believes that aborting the pregnancy would be the best possible solution for her own individual reasons. As a Pro-Choice supporter, I respect a woman’s personal reasoning for such a decision and believe others should as well. If the birth parents don’t want to give their child up for adoption because of the emotional aftermath to everyone involved then they and their child may struggle with poverty.

 Overall, I strongly believe that all women have a basic, human right to be in control of her body. If Roe vs. Wade (the act that made *banning* abortion illegal) was to be repealed, many women would be forced to endure pregnancies unwillingly and give birth to a child against their own reasoning’s and instinctual beliefs. Some women might even resort to extreme measures, such as attempting to induce an abortion themselves. Roe vs. Wade declared that “a woman’s right to an abortion fell within the right to privacy; protected by the Fourteenth Amendment” (4).Contrary to popular belief, a fetus or embryo is *not* a human being and therefore abortion should not and by law, cannot be considered “murder” or a violation of the Constitution. In the case of an unwanted pregnancy, the pregnant woman is the *only* human being involved in the situation. Therefore she is the only one who should have the right to choose whether or not to abort a pregnancy if she feels emotionally, morally and personally inclined to do so. We must all remember: a fetus or embryo is *not* alive; it merely has the potential to be. In the same sense, a tree has the potential to be a table and a cow to be a steak…though most people would not slather a cow in steak sauce then sit down next a tree to eat it, so why would we treat something that only has the potential to be a human, as a human? We simply would not.

 In conclusion, I strongly support abortion and more so, a woman’s right to choose what will happen to her and her own body regarding unwanted pregnancies for a multitude of reasons. As previously stated, most women who chose to abort a pregnancy are often in situations far more complex than what meets the eye; for some, having a child can cause emotional turmoil or lead to financial and socioeconomic struggles. Lastly, every woman has the basic, human right to be in control of her own body. Imagine yourself or loved one in her shoes, now…wouldn’t you agree?

Works Cited

1. Valenti, Jessica. *The Purity Myth: How America's Obsession with Virginity Is Hurting Young Women*. Berkeley, CA: Seal, 2009. N. pag. Print.
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3. <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubpdfs/f_impact.pdf>
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