

The Eye on Abortion

December 2006



WINTER IS FOR S.L.E.D!

Dear Pro-life Friends,

Would you know what to say to someone considering abortion? A life is on the line. It is up to you to save him or her. What could you possibly say to this mother?

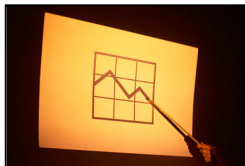
With the January 22nd anniversary of Roe V. Wade rapidly approaching once again, now is a great time to learn how to effectively defend the unborn.

THE BASICS: AN OVERVIEW

First, there are some basic facts that every pro-lifer should be aware of concerning abortion and embryology. If you memorize these (that's right, homework!), you will have a solid foundation to build on when dialoguing with abortion advocates. Even simply reading them will give you a more accurate perspective on abortion as a whole. So, it's time to put on your thinking caps!

HOW MANY ABORTIONS ARE THERE IN THE U.S.?

- **3700** abortions are performed **every day** in the U.S.
- **1.29 million** abortions performed **every year** in U.S. (1.29 million to 1.5 million depending on the source)
- Over **46 million** abortions performed altogether in U.S. **since it was legalized in 1973**



Source: "An Overview of Abortion in the United States" Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health and The Guttmacher Institute, June 2005.

Note: The Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI) is the research arm for Planned Parenthood, and seen as the most reliable source for information on abortion statistics.

WHEN IS ABORTION LEGAL?

Abortion is legal throughout all nine months of pregnancy for any reason. *Roe v. Wade* held that *even after a fetus was viable*, the State could not place the interest and welfare of that fetus above that of the woman in preserving her own life and **health**.



In *Doe v. Bolton*, the companion case to *Roe*, the Court emphasized that the health of the mother represents a medical judgment that "may be exercised in light of all factors—**physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman's age—relevant to the well-being of the patient.**" Translation – abortion is legal through all nine months of pregnancy for any reason.

There is not a late-term abortion provider in every state, but where there is *not* one, the girl/woman seeking a late-term abortion merely has to travel to the nearest provider to receive her abortion.

BASIC FACTS ABOUT EMBRYONIC/FETAL DEVELOPMENT

- A child's DNA is fully present at conception.
- Heartbeat begins on day 18. (Or roughly 3 weeks)
- Brainwaves at 40 days. (Or roughly 6 weeks)
- Baby can move at 6 weeks.
- Baby can suck thumb at 7 weeks. (Also hiccups!)
- All organs are present at 8 weeks.
- Baby's respiratory system begins to function and baby begins to breathe amniotic fluid at 9 weeks.
- Baby can walk in the womb, or "step" at 11 weeks!
- Baby is frequently viable (able to live outside of the womb) at 22 weeks.



TERMS USED FOR BABY PRIOR TO BIRTH

- Zygote - When first conceived. (While still in its one-cell stage)
- Embryo - Up until the end of the 7th week.
- Fetus - 8th week until birth.

Pro-choicers use these terms to their advantage in order to dehumanize the child, and therefore feel justified in killing him or her. The word fetus is merely Latin for "offspring" or "little one." Using different terms while referring to the baby in-utero does not change what it is...a human being!

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## BASIC METHODS OF ABORTION

### 1<sup>ST</sup> TRIMESTER

#### FORMS OF MEDICAL (CHEMICAL) ABORTIONS

- **Emergency Contraceptive Pill** (i.e.- The "morning-after" pill) - Taken within 72 hours of unprotected sex, it prevents implantation of the embryo which results in an abortion.
- **RU-486** (Mifepristone-Misoprostol Method) (Taken up to 7 weeks) - This is a two-step process that eventually causes the woman to have a miscarriage. She takes a dose of mifepristone orally, and a few days after that, she takes the second medication, misoprostol. After taking the misoprostol, it takes about 4 hours for the pregnancy to end. It is not uncommon for the woman to see the baby after it passes out of her. This is a form of abortion a woman does by her *own* hand.

#### SURGICAL ABORTIONS

### 1<sup>ST</sup> TRIMESTER

- **Suction Curettage** (Most common procedure) - A suction tube is inserted into the opening of the womb. The powerful suction tears the unborn infant into pieces. A curette (a loop-shaped knife) may be used for "clean up."
- **'D & C' abortion** (Dilation and Curettage) - Used at the end of the third month of pregnancy (approximately 12 weeks) - The cervix is dilated and a curette is inserted into the womb and the baby is cut apart and scraped away, along with the placenta that remains.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> TRIMESTER

- **'D & E' abortion** (Dilation and Evacuation) - Used after 13 weeks - The cervix is dilated and the unborn child is dismembered with pliers-like forceps. Force is needed to pull the baby apart. The instrument is used to seize a leg or other part of the body and then, with a twisting motion, tear it from the baby's body. The baby's spine is snapped and the skull crushed. After the baby parts are removed, they are reassembled outside the womb to make sure all parts removed. If any fetal parts are left inside the mother's womb, it can cause serious complications, and sometimes death.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> TRIMESTER

- **'D & X' abortion** - (Intact Dilation and Extraction/i.e.- Partial Birth Abortion) - The abortionist dilates the woman's cervix for 2 days. After that, the abortionist locates the baby's legs and with a large forceps, pulls one of the baby's legs into the mother's vagina and uses his hands to pull the other leg into the vagina as well. The abortionist continues to pull the baby out of the vagina...first the legs, then the torso, then the shoulders, and last, the arms. The baby's head is now the only part left in the mother's vagina. The abortionist then takes a blunt curved Metzenbaum scissors and forces it into the base of the skull. After the scissors are removed, a suction catheter is inserted into the hole that the scissors made, and the brains are suctioned out of the skull. The baby's skull then collapses, and it is also removed from the woman's vagina. (According to Martin Haskell, the abortionist who developed the procedure.)



Don't be fooled by pro-choicers' rhetoric about women dying from illegal "coat hanger" abortions. Mary Calderon, former director of Planned Parenthood, estimated in a July 1960 article from the *American Journal of Public Health* (13 years before abortion was made legal nationwide through *Roe v. Wade*) that **licensed physicians in good standing performed 90% of all illegal abortions.**

Further, if abortion were made illegal tomorrow, the power would return to the states and the laws that each state had in place prior to *Roe* would be reinstated. Where it is *not* legal, some doctors would still perform them, but the number of abortions would go down *dramatically* if *Roe* were overturned.

For more information about abortion methods, see the book "*Abortion Practice*", by Warren M. Hern.

## **BRAVO!**

If you have read up to this point in this newsletter, **you now know more than most of the American population about abortion!** Knowledge *is* power. When this knowledge is shared, with the Lord's help, it can help others see the horror of abortion.

Now that you have some of the basics under your belt, let's move on to some simple techniques you can use that will help you persuade others that the lives of the unborn are just as valuable as those of us who are born.

## TACTICS:THE SLED ACRONYM

Not just *any* argument works when dialoguing with pro-aborts about abortion. Many arguments fail to get to the heart of the matter. They often lead to rabbit trails and cause the conversation to get off track in a hurry.

There is a brilliant little acronym that will help you get to the point quickly and stay there. **We want to send a clear message to our listeners, and that is that a human is a human is a human!**

Here is a chart that will help you.



### **THE SLED TEST: The Nuts and Bolts of Debating**

There are only four differences between the born and the unborn. Use the SLED test to show that they are not morally relevant.

| <b>SLED</b>                 | <b>Objection</b>                                                                         | <b>Answer</b>                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Size</b>                 | "But the unborn are so small."                                                           | "Are larger humans more valuable than smaller ones?"                                                                                                            |
| <b>Level of Development</b> | "It's just a blob of tissue."                                                            | "Do humans gain value as they develop more and more? Is a two year old less valuable than a 20 year old?"                                                       |
| <b>Environment</b>          | "It's not a person until it's 'out here' with us."                                       | "How does <u>where</u> you are determine <u>what</u> you are?"<br>"How does a simple change in location change you from a 'blob of tissue' into a human being?" |
| <b>Degree of Dependency</b> | "As long as it cannot survive without the mother's body she should be able to abort it." | "A newborn is dependent on its mother for breast milk. Would you approve of her choice to withhold her milk?"                                                   |

SLED acronym adapted from: "*The Moral Question of Abortion*", by Stephen Schwarz

The chart above shows some very brief examples of how to defeat the arguments we so often hear that oppose life. These arguments come in a variety of ways, but usually at the core of what pro-aborts are trying to say are these basic concepts. As you can see, they can be easily overcome with common sense and reasoning. That does not, however, mean that you can always change *everyone's* mind. Some people will hold their opinion no matter what good evidence or reasoning you bring to the table. However, for those who are truly willing to

dialogue about this issue with an open mind, they will see the sound reasoning of the pro-life position quickly when they are confronted with these methods.

For more information as to how to overcome arguments and assertions pro-aborts bring up, I highly recommend you visit [www.abort73.com](http://www.abort73.com). It is a great resource! It is truly one of the best websites I know of regarding abortion.

I hope you find this information helpful as you seek to protect the unborn. **Remember - words *can* save lives**, so it is important that we become skilled at making a good defense for the unborn. I have personally seen and experienced it, time and time again. I am certain that if you take a little time to learn these facts and techniques, that the Lord will place before you divine opportunities to put your knowledge to use!

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and I pray you will have a great New Year to come as you stand in the gap for "the least of these" and serve the Lord with gladness!

Defending the defenseless through His strength,

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