



INSPIRE YOUTH JOURNAL

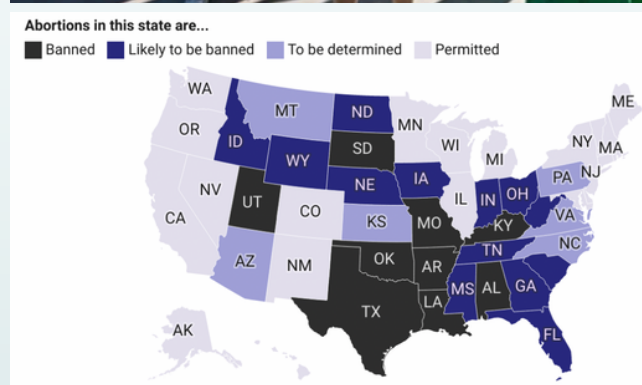
PRO-LIFE VS. PRO-CHOICE; A COMPREHENSIVE SUMMARY

In the world today, there are few topics as widely talked about and controversial as abortion. Dealing with many sensitive topics such as sexism, death, and sexual assault, it's hard to come to one conclusive answer. In this article, we will present a comprehensive list of all arguments for and against making abortions legal, to better educate on the subject, and organize a wide range of ideas and opinions.

PRO-CHOICE ARGUMENT

Firstly we have the pro-choice arguments starting with the idea that women should be able to have autonomy over their own bodies. They should be able to choose what happens in their own reproductive organs without other people telling them what to do with their own bodies. In addition, abortions don't always come from sexual decisions, such as in sexual assault where they've done nothing wrong but are now forced to take care of a child they never asked for, and medical emergencies. When there are certain issues during a pregnancy, giving birth to the baby may seriously risk the lives of both the mother and child, making an abortion the safest option to save the most lives. In many scenarios, such as in teenage pregnancies, having the child may ruin the mother's life, causing her to not be able to continue her education or even lose her job, just to protect the "life" of an often microscopic embryo that can't feel and that isn't even alive yet.

In keeping the pregnancy to term, when the baby is actually alive, their lives may be quite bleak, because of the difficulties of raising a child you were unprepared for, and in many cases, an unwanted child that may be abused or neglected. There has been some math to suggest that the availability of abortions significantly lowers crime, as most criminals are those who grew up in worse situations. Furthermore, the banning of abortions will just lead women to seek out illegal and often dangerous or ill-performed abortions. It's common practice in pregnancies that the mother's life comes first, and besides the benefits to the mother and baby, there's also the societal benefit of reducing overpopulation in a world where climate change is worsening by the day. With all of these reasons, there's really no reason to ban abortions for a fetus which isn't even alive yet, just to put the mother and that same fetus when it's grown up into an awful situation that's easily avoidable.





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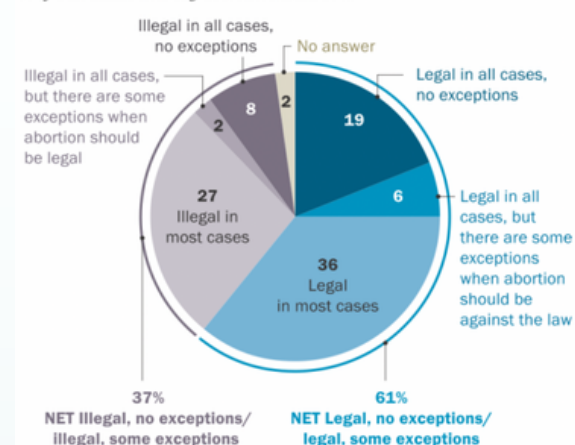
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PRO-LIFE ARGUMENT

Now, we have the pro-life side, starting with arguments for why fetuses are alive. The entirety of the pro-choice arguments hinge on the belief that fetuses aren't alive, as otherwise, no matter the benefits, it would be murder, and murder is not something we should find acceptable as a society. Fetuses are just as alive as any one of us, because there is a concrete difference between an unfertilized egg and sperm, and a fertilized egg. Regardless of a mother, a fertilized egg in a protected environment will be able to grow into a full human being and have a normal life. Just because it's inside another person, does not mean that it isn't alive or is the property of that person. Dependency doesn't equal value, just like how a toddler that needs their parents for everything isn't less valuable than an adult who can take care of themselves, an embryo isn't less valuable than any one of us. Another argument for why killing a fetus is fine, is because they can't feel pain, however, someone who's braindead or in certain types of a coma can't feel or process pain, but most of us agree that just killing them because we don't want to have them be a part in our lives, when they have a chance at living, is a horrible thing to do.

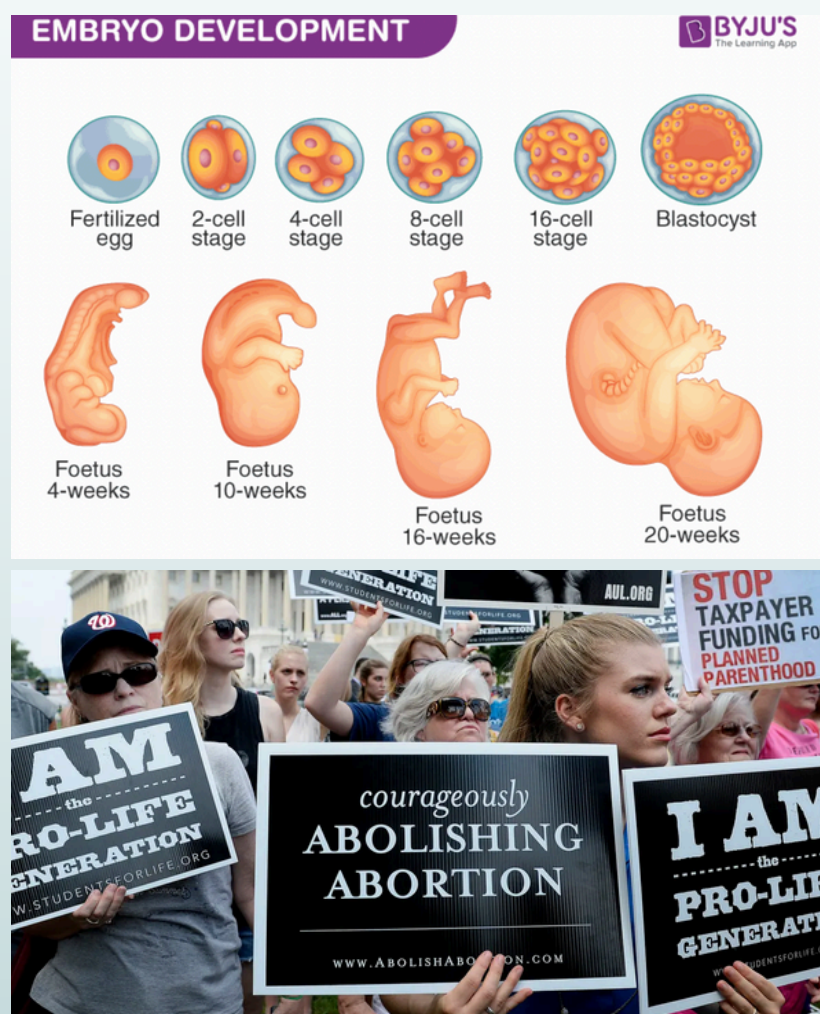
Majority of adults say abortion should be legal in some cases, illegal in others

% of U.S. adults who say abortion should be ...



Note: Pie chart shows combined result of three separate questions. Adults who answered that abortion should be legal in all cases but skipped the follow-up question were coded as "legal in all cases, no exceptions." Adults who answered that abortion should be illegal in all cases but skipped the follow-up question were coded as "illegal in all cases, no exceptions." See topline for full details.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 7-13, 2022.
"America's Abortion Quandary"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



Bibliography:

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<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/pro-life/abortion-pros-and-cons-5-pro-life-arguments/>
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Why then, do we get rid of any empathy when it comes to unborn children? If someone has a miscarriage, they would rightfully be very sad and upset from losing their child's life, but if you told them, "Don't worry, it wasn't actually alive yet," you'd be awful, because according to pro-choice logic, sometimes a fetus is alive and sometimes it isn't. Make it make sense. Abortions also promote a culture where we can easily get rid of empathy for certain types of people or animals, just because it may benefit us. If someone is unfit to care for a child, there are other options that preserve the child's life, such as adoption. Furthermore, abortions don't even fix the root of the problem, which is sexism and a lack of education around sex and contraceptives. These are what we should be solving, instead of using abortions because they may be easier in the short term. People should take responsibility for their choices and the lives that are now involved in those choices, and banning abortions doesn't necessarily mean women will seek illegal ones, as evidence shows most choose to just keep the baby instead. Finally, for the last point, we will address overpopulation. Yes, we agree overpopulation and climate change are a serious issue, however we are constantly making other solutions to climate change that don't involve murder, and according to the demographic transition model, as time goes on, more and more countries will naturally go into a population decline, where abortions would only worsen the issue. This issue is a no-brainer, these benefits, although there, are not nearly worth the thousands or even millions of lives that will be lost through abortions if we choose to make these murder acceptable.



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RESOLVED: ON BALANCE, THE BENEFITS OF THE EU-MERCOSUR FREE TRADE DEAL OUTWEIGH THE HARMS



Definition of key terms:

- European Union (EU): Economic, social, and political union between 27 European countries.
- Mercado Común del Sur (Mercosur): South American trade bloc between 4 countries.
- EU-Mercosur Free Trade Deal: agreement to reduce tariffs and barriers to trade between the EU and Mercosur. It was reached in 2019 after nearly 20 years of negotiations but has yet to be ratified by the EU or Mercosur.

Introduction:

- “Resolved: On balance, the benefits of the EU-Mercosur free trade deal outweigh the harms” is one of the two resolutions on the ballot for the NSDA National Tournament. It’s an excellent one as it forces debaters to dive into the complex geopolitical and environmental that could have ripple effects across two of the world’s most significant economic powerhouses.

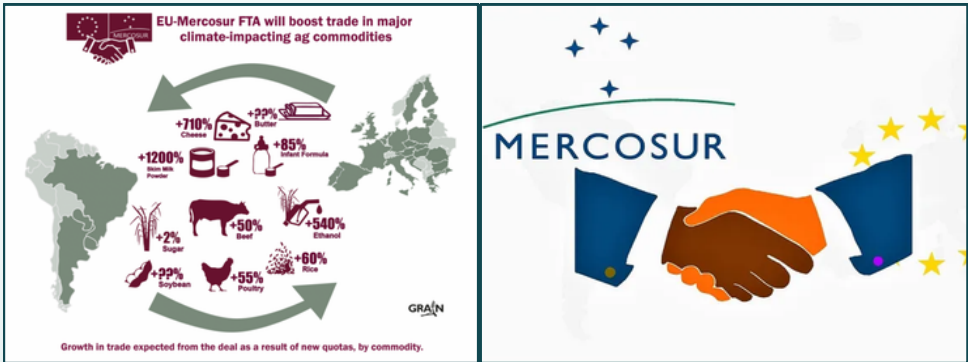
Potential Arguments for the Affirmative Side

Economic Growth:

- The EU and Mercosur already have good trade relationships which will only be enhanced with the ratification of the trade deal:
 - “In 2021, EU trade with Mercosur fully recovered from the Covid-19 pandemic with an increase of 25.5 % in exports and 31.2 % in imports (compared with 2020), which led to a surplus of C 1 billion.” - EC
 - “The EU is Mercosur's number one trade and investment partner. EU exports to Mercosur were €45 billion in goods in 2021 and €17 billion in services in 2020.” - EC's Trade Department
 - “The EU's trade agreement with Mercosur will: remove trade barriers and make it easier for EU firms to sell goods and services to Mercosur and to invest.” - EC's Trade Department
 - “Over 60,000 EU companies export to Mercosur. If we make trade and investment with Mercosur easier, these figures could be higher.” - EC's Trade Department

Job Creation:

- With the ratification of the trade deal, the already-existing benefits regarding jobs will likely be amplified:
 - “Today, more than 850,000 jobs in the EU relate to exports to Brazil alone.” - EC's Trade Department
- “Companies from Mercosur countries employ more than 30,000 people in the EU.” - EC's Trade Department



Potential Arguments for the Negative Side

The environment:

- The increased demand for products could lead to more deforestation and biodiversity losses thereby exacerbating climate change:
 - “An analysis of 189 countries from 2001 to 2012 shows that deforestation increased significantly over the three years after the enactment of free trade agreements” - IUCN NL
 - “Many of the commodities to be traded from the Mercosur to the EU are among the main drivers of deforestation at local level. They are also linked with soil deterioration, high CO2 emissions and biodiversity loss. An analysis commissioned by The Greens/EFA states the impact of the treaty on the climate involves multiple negative effects, such as deforestation, emissions from methane gas, increased pollution from maritime transport and increased use of pesticides.” - IUCN NL

Exacerbates inequalities:

- “The EU-Mercosur deal will disproportionately benefit agribusiness and the European agrochemical and car industries, at the expense of small and medium enterprises, small-scale and family farmers.” - Friends of the Earth
- “Studies predict very small or negligible GDP gains for all countries. In Mercosur, it would increase deindustrialization, higher inequalities and more dependence on external demand. In Argentina for example, 186 000 industrial jobs could disappear.” - Friends of the Earth
- “The EU will import more meat and other agricultural products. With them, we will import emissions, deforestation, soil contamination and human rights abuses— while endangering local farmers’ livelihoods in the Mercosur region and in the European Union.” - The Greens
- “the agreement is likely to push most of the countries surveyed—especially in MERCOSUR, further away from a path towards sustainable growth and development.” - BU Global Development Policy Center

