

THE DEMOCRACY PROJECT

II. ABORTION

1. CONTOURS OF DEBATE: ABORTION SOURCES

The sources below offer teachers and students some foundational information, as well as new ways of exploring the topic of abortion. Teachers may wish to use one or more of these sources to better orient themselves to the full range of debate and/or to introduce their students to the basic principles and definitions related to the topic. Teachers and students alike will benefit from familiarizing themselves with the contours of the debate and exploring new ways of thinking about the many implications of the abortion debate for our society.

We recommend introducing Level Questions to your students along with one or more of the sources below. This is not only a valuable annotation tool, it helps students generate analytical questions for class discussion and writing.

Note that those sources preceded by a ■ include an abbreviated version, along with three discussion questions, to make the content more accessible for students and/or to reduce the time required for teachers to review and prep.

Forbes
"How Americans Really Feel About Abortion: The Surprising Poll Results"
Americans broadly support the procedure remaining legal, even as their levels of support vary when looking at various demographics and abortions later into a pregnancy. (A:1)

Maps
Active Abortion Restrictions by State and How the US Compares with the Rest of the World on Abortion *These articles offer visual representations of America's comparative stances on abortion rights.*

▪**Caitlin Flanagan**
"The Dishonesty of the Abortion Debate: Why We Need to Face the Best Arguments From the Other Side" *This is not an argument anyone is going to win. The loudest advocates on both sides are terrible representatives for their cause.* Abbreviated Source with Questions

▪**Cato Institute: Clark Neily and Jay Schweikert**
"The Hard Problem of Abortion Rights" *Reasonable minds can disagree about the moral nature of abortion itself, the constitutional status of abortion rights, and the proper legal framework with which to evaluate asserted claims of a right to abortion access in particular circumstances.* Abbreviated Source with Questions

Bari Weiss: *Honestly*
"Why the Abortion Debate is Wrong" (*Video: 13:41*) *Weiss explains why she still grapples with the other side of the abortion debate—and why we all need to.*

Conor Friedersdorf
"There are More Than Two Sides to the Abortion Debate" *What follows includes perspectives from several different sides of the debate. Each one may inform your thinking, even if only to reveal how some other people think.*

Robert George
"Defending Unborn Life in Political Action" *Roe is now gone, of course — overruled by the Supreme Court in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization. But it took much too long to achieve its reversal. And because law is a teacher — a shaper of consciousness and consciences — the lengthy reign of Roe now makes our task of securing by legislation effective protection of unborn children profoundly difficult.*

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