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11 November 2022

Project 2: Composing Epideictic – Final Draft

There are many issues that plague our world that divide people from one another. People begin to build up their ego and pride which is detrimental to finding common ground and resolution. This very issue is happening when it comes to women's reproductive rights. Men, feel threatened, blamed, and unsettled by the potential change to come. Women have grown exhausted from fighting which leads to little patience and quick aggravation and blaming. I want to start off by saying neither side is right in how they address issues. It is essential that both sides work together in understanding and listening to what the other party has to say. This paper is not meant to persuade you to have a different opinion, but rather to have a space that creates mutual understanding and compromise between men and women. Today I will be talking about why women get abortions, the unfair representation of women in legislation, and why people should have the right to choose.

I identify as a heterosexual Chinese woman, and I was adopted from Guangxi China when was one year old. This aspect of my life has created an interesting perspective on why adoption should not be the sole answer for women to not have abortions. I believe as an adopted person I am able to speak about the confusing feelings, trauma, and struggle with self-identity that comes along with adoption. I am passionate being pro-choice because it is not only affecting me, other women around me, and women of color but generations of women to come. It is also affecting

men in a way they do not realize. One day it will not be some random woman who got knocked up, it will be your daughter who was raped and must carry the child, or your wife who will die during childbirth because they were not allowed an abortion. These stories are around us every day, and it is essential that I as a woman have the patience and desire to educate men on why women's rights are important; it is a man's job, to listen, truly take in the information they are hearing, and process it by having a conversation with no intention of it leading to an argument.

Everyone has their own set of values and beliefs. When it comes to abortion, people are very quick to assume and judge others' values. What I want people to understand is that both sides value human life, but pro-life people are not prioritizing the women in the situation. Their argument is solely about the babies, but there are many parties and other factors that must be considered in a decision like this. Every woman gets an abortion for a different reason and no one else has the right to judge another for why they are. The values behind having the choice to choose for their own body include, doing what is best for themselves and their current situation. Some might view this as selfish, but I believe when it comes to your own body you have that right. Yes, women are the ones who are meant to be mothers but not all women want to be mothers, or some cannot be due to health, age, or other personal reasons. People who are pro-choice want the right for every woman to choose. They are not going around forcing other women to have abortions. That is the whole point, they can choose what is best. On the other hand, people who claim they are pro-life do want to impose their values on others. When people claim they are pro-life though, they only mean they are pro-birth. They struggle to think about what happens to the child after they are born. Without properly funding the foster care system, public health care, and public education, their idea of life is not very well-rounded. A full life cannot be fulfilled without a loving home, easy access to healthcare, and education to foster new

ideas and growth. These are all cause-and-effect situations that connect together bringing a child a full life which is what they truly deserve. The solution to this is for the men in women's lives to understand the woman's intentions and reasoning behind having an abortion. Getting an abortion is no easy decision to make. It is important men have grace, sympathy, and an open mind when they hear of a woman getting an abortion.

It is no secret that women are not equally represented in positions of power especially when it comes to congress. This is a problem because men are making laws on the behalf of women, without hearing from women. I believe men continuously leave women out of the conversation because they fear the loss of power. If they cannot control women then the power dynamic, they are so used to, will be thrown off. This is a problem because men make up more than half of congress even though more than half of the US population is female. Now, some might say that women do not want these positions with higher power because there are fewer applicants. I say that we need to look deeper than the applications and look at the roadblocks women face when trying to obtain a position of power. There are things like childcare that are deemed a woman's responsibility, unequal pay, and the intersectionality of being a woman and a person of color. These are just a couple of roadblocks that women face in trying to reach the top. Men need to recognize the value of including women in their circle of power. What that would really be doing is adding twice as many perspectives and ideas that weren't there before. This will lead to better outcomes for all parties, men will not have to carry the pressure of being on their A-game all the time, and women will have a seat at the table which will ultimately diversify many aspects that need to be broadened. It really comes down to the fourteenth amendment in the constitution where they wrote, "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of **life, liberty,**

or property, without due process of law.” The keywords are life and liberty here. Women are being deprived of life when they are prioritized second to an unborn fetus. There is no liberty when it comes to this situation because there is a lack of listening to why it is harmful.

Everyone in life wants to have the ability to make choices. It could be as simple as choosing what to eat for breakfast to choosing where you go to college. Making decisions isn't just about everyday choices though, it's about personal freedom and how that affects a person's sense of value. Take choosing your breakfast, for example, you want waffles, but your parents tell you no and make eggs with no room for conversation. Now you are left feeling like your voice doesn't matter, and your feelings are invalid. Now take this example and apply it to abortion. When a set of rules are imposed on women with no room for conversation it leaves women feeling invalidated and voiceless. For example, a thirteen-year-old girl was raped by her grandfather and became pregnant. She was forced to go out of state to have an abortion performed because where she lived did not allow abortions. Another girl, seventeen years old, was raped at a party and did not know the perpetrator. Luckily, she was able to travel to a nearby state and have an abortion and not carry the child of her rapist. Neither of them made the choice to have sex, yet they were punished like they had made an irresponsible decision. If men took a moment and listened to these kinds of stories, they would realize they are more common than you would think and understand the trauma and mental harm not having an abortion can bring. An example of how conservatives want to have the freedom to choose is when it comes to vaccines. During the pandemic, many were so hesitant to go get the vaccine because they weren't sure it was safe yet or if that's what they wanted for their body. They were then extremely offended when places mandated a vaccination, or they wouldn't be let in. At that moment they believed it was their body and their choice. When women try and take that concept and apply it to their body though

about having an entire child, the argument isn't valid. Having a child is a massive commitment and knowing that you are not ready for that yet is the most responsible thing you can do. The freedom to choose is extremely important and every person should be allowed this freedom free of discrimination of race, gender, or sex.

To find a solution to this problem, it's essential that men come to the table with open ears and a desire to understand. By continuing to ignore the needs and basic human rights of women there will be a world filled with division and separation. It is less about proving who is right or wrong in the matter and working towards the greater benefit of what is safe and the best choice for the women involved. Working together instead of having a barrier of anger and distrust will be much easier, than going head-to-head. Working toward this understanding will take time, compromise, and an open mind. With all of those in mind, we can accomplish the core goal of valuing human life.