



# The Kulas Kronicle



113 N. Martinson—Wichita, KS 67203—316.683.6426—[paul@jfaweb.org](mailto:paul@jfaweb.org)

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## What do your friends believe?

It is encouraging to me to see people who are willing to discuss their disagreements about abortion with their friends. But friends rarely start the conversation about abortion with each other without a prompting from someone outside of their close circle. That's why I enjoy helping friends figure out that they disagree on abortion, because this makes it possible for them to seek the truth together. The Justice For All staff and trained volunteers, along with the various types of outreach equipment, create a great environment to get friends talking about their views and bringing their disagreements to the surface so they can discuss them.

Many times I have seen people who are friends with one another walk up to our "Should Abortion Remain Legal?" poll table after I ask them to weigh in, and one gingerly approaches one side of the table while another approaches the opposing side. One then notices out of the corner of his eye that his friend is beside him signing the other side, and not behind him waiting to sign the same side. Sometimes this causes one of the friends to stop and blurt out, "What are you signing that side for?"

This sort of thing happened during outreach at Oklahoma State University (OSU) in November of 2016 when four friends gathered around the poll table. I didn't realize they were together at first. I connected with Christopher after he marked that abortion should remain legal. His position was this: "Women should be able to get an abortion until the child can feel pain or the child would be able to survive outside the womb [the point known as "viability"]." I asked Christopher several questions about his view and addressed his concerns about the feeling of pain and viability using the "Equal Rights Argument."\* (As we proceeded, Christopher added that according to his version of Buddhism, ani-



We did this poll table outreach on February 27, 2017 at Oklahoma State University. You can see me in conversation in the middle of the photo surrounded by others who are having their own conversations.

mals are equal to humans, and somehow that also justified his pro-choice views.)

The Equal Rights Argument was very powerful in my conversation with Christopher. In fact, at the end of the conversation Christopher told me, "I am not going to lie, you have made me think. I am going to have to do more research and reading. You have done your job well as you have made some very compelling arguments. Thanks for taking the time to share your view."

What struck me was how diverse Christopher and his friends were in their views. One of them, Grayson, was pro-life. Another one, Cameron, intrigued me. He signed the YES side, but he was nodding his head in agreement when I was making one point to Christopher, so I assumed he mistakenly signed the YES side and was actually pro-life. He clarified later that, indeed, he was pro-choice, but he didn't hold Christopher's extreme view on animal equality. Neither was it significant to him that the fetus can't feel pain early on. Instead, he was pro-choice because the fetus isn't viable. Later, he added that because the fetus can't reason, it doesn't have rights. Still,

## What do your friends believe? (continued)

Cameron seemed to be listening intently to the Equal Rights Argument and seemed to be contemplating it.

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**"I am not going to lie, you have made me think. I am going to have to do more research and reading. You have done your job well as you have made some very compelling arguments. Thanks for taking time to share your view." Christopher**

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For many, like this group of four friends, the experience at the JFA poll table is the first time they have discussed their disagreements on abortion. I think many times people don't bring up tough moral questions with their friends because they don't want to break the friendship. For others, they don't think the conversation

would be productive—that it would turn into an argument. With these natural obstacles in mind, it is important for each of us to honestly ask ourselves: "Do I know what my friends believe about abortion?"

How about you? Have you ever opened up the discussion about abortion with one of your friends? This year at JFA, we are attempting to create 5000 conversations about abortion, and we could use your help. If you want to help make abortion unthinkable, you can simply start by asking a friend, "What do you think about abortion?" You might be surprised by what you find, like I was when Cameron, who I thought was pro-life, turned out to be pro-choice.

If you get a conversation started, let me know what happens, and I'll do what I can to help you make a difference in your circle of friends.

*\*Learn to use the Equal Rights Argument by attending a JFA seminar. Or right now, visit: [www.jfaweb.org/equal-rights](http://www.jfaweb.org/equal-rights). This is our collection of real dialogue examples from JFA trainers.*

**This year as we focus on having lots of conversations with people who have pro-choice beliefs, we have been placing outreach front and center in our program. Here is a list of all the outreach we have conducted this semester. Some of the events have been for a short time of the day and other events have been all day long. Our team is connecting with a bunch of people in the course of a few months.**

### ***Outreach Conducted in January***

1/11 — Surveys—Wichita State University (WSU)  
1/19 — Surveys — WSU  
1/31 — Poll Table — WSU

### ***Outreach Conducted in February***

2/1 — Poll Table — WSU  
2/6 — Poll Table — WSU  
2/7 — Poll Table — WSU  
2/13 — A-Frame Kiosk — Arizona State University  
2/13 — Poll Table — University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)  
2/14 — Poll Table — UNLV  
2/15 — JFA's Original Exhibit—UNLV  
2/16 — JFA's Original Exhibit—UNLV  
2/23 — Poll Table — WSU  
2/27 — Poll Table — Oklahoma State University (OSU)  
2/28 — Poll Table — WSU

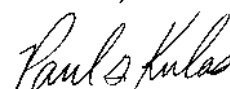
### ***Outreach Conducted in March***

3/6 — Poll Table—The University of Oklahoma (OU)  
3/7 — Poll Table — WSU  
3/9 — Poll Table — WSU  
3/15 — Poll Table — WSU  
3/15 — A-Frame Kiosk — Nicholls State University  
3/16 — A-Frame Kiosk — Nicholls State University  
3/16 — Poll Table — WSU  
3/20 — Surveys-Arkansas river near downtown Wichita  
3/23 — Surveys-Arkansas river near downtown Wichita

### ***Scheduled in March***

3/27 — A-Frame Kiosk — OU  
3/28 — A-Frame Kiosk — OU  
3/29 — Poll Table — OSU

In Christ,



Paul G. Kulas