

## Why would this veteran JFA volunteer change her approach to dialogue?



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Exhibit Reflection, CA 2009 Trip

A conversation at Pasadena City College (PCC) changed the way I talk to people about abortion.

Sure, I'd heard JFA staffer Jon Wagner concede to what seemed like a million pro-choice students that he was a crazy bigot, *but that never seemed like the way that I should carry on a pro-life conversation with anyone.*

I had always thought, "No, I should meet them where they are; if they want to talk about how I'm an ignorant, self-loathing, fundamentalist doormat for chauvinistic pro-life males, well then by golly...I'll convince them that **just because someone thinks the unborn is a living human**, it does not make them *or me* a doormat or chauvinistic."

*Daniel, however, changed that for me.* I spent an hour and a half talking to this PCC student about each of the JFA Exhibit panels, patiently answering his same four questions each time he asked them again (and again); so I thought that at the very least I would have changed his mind about pro-lifers—we really can carry on a civil conversation!

At the end of the conversation he asked me if I came up with these opinions on my own or if my parents told me what to believe. I did as I normally do and proceeded to defend myself, and then he left.

How did I try to prove to Daniel that I was sincerely pro-life? By offering personal experiences that couldn't be verified. Was he supposed to take my word for it? Hardly.

So I pondered, "What is the best way to SHOW someone that I have thought about my pro-life position and understand the implications of it?"

Ah, but of course! A dialogue that sensibly and thoughtfully answers their questions!

Which meant nothing good for the conversation I had just had with Daniel. My responses to his questions did not show him that I was very reasonable or believable.

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**“Okay...assume for the moment that I’m merely a female fop duped by anti-choice men.”**

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Not exactly the rush one wants after an epiphany. However I felt strangely empowered. I knew I no longer needed to directly defend the way my parents raised me, my education, my thought process, my faith or really anything **except the life of the unborn.**

So while my conversation with Daniel was far from my most enjoyable conversation in my JFA experience, I think that God used it to help me grow as a pro-life apologist.

I now understand the wisdom in saying, "Okay, let's assume for the moment that I'm merely a female fop duped by anti-choice men. **How does that change whether the unborn is a living human being?**"