

JFA Training Reflection  
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I LOVED IT! I loved the experience and the conversations!

Looking back on my JFA training, I also remember joy - because I knew that every conversation I had would be used by God. I was initially scared as I observed a couple of conversations with my mentor, but my fear quickly passed as I found more and more people willing to talk with me.

My most memorable conversation was with a male student I'll call Tyrell. He was reading JFA's Free Speech Board. I approached him and our conversation went something like:

Me: "Which [opinion] do you most agree with?"  
Tyrell: (pointing at some writing on the board, he read it out loud.) "It is the woman's body and she shouldn't have to go through with pregnancy if she doesn't want to, yo."  
Me: "Did you write that?"  
T: "No, but I agree with it."

I asked him why. He immediately began to cuss at me, stating how a woman shouldn't be forced to have a child. He brought up rape and I asked him if he thought a child who is the product of rape should have to pay for his father's crime?

I could tell my question caused him to think, so I told him this story:

An impoverished woman had three sons. Her fiancé helped provide for her and her children. This woman was thankful and loved her fiancé very much, but she made a mistake. Before they got married, she had sex with a man who was not her fiancé and became pregnant.

The fiancé was willing to care for the three boys but not this child. He gave her two options. Keep the baby and lose her fiancé and the financial stability he was providing, or abort the child and care for her three children with her fiancé.



I then asked Tyrell, "Which option do you think the mother should choose?"

Pausing only for a few seconds, Tyrell said, "She should have the abortion."

I responded, "The mother chose adoption. When the baby girl was born, the mother had to put an ad in the local paper to notify the "unknown father" of the birth. The father is still unknown. This child was black. The birth mother was a Christian and seriously considered abortion. The adoptive parents were both white. I was that child."

At that moment, I saw him change. We continued talking and I know he left thinking even more (but I forgot to exchange contact info so that I could "extend our Exhibit" conversation!).

My conversation with Tyrell actually changed my life. Even though I wanted to walk away when he started to cuss at me, I didn't. I kept my cool, thanks to my JFA training. I realize even more now that my story can help people like Tyrell better understand.

I have continued to talk to others about abortion. It has come up within classrooms and with friends. I have been able to share the truth with many. My JFA experience has been truly life changing!!!

Tracie below, wearing green headband.

