

Dialogue Prompts: Three Essential Skills

Shorter Partner

1. For Exercise 1, you play a persona in which you say, "I'm pro-choice," and by that you mean:
 - Should be legal until viability
 - all cases (circumstances) should be legal
 - you are especially concerned about the hard cases (rape, incest, life of the mother, deformity of the child)
 - why? not human until viable
 - why? woman has right to her body
 - Note: Don't make this too easy. Try to hold back your perspective and make the person ask specific questions to discover it.
2. For Exercise 2, you play a persona in which you say, "I'm pro-life," and by that you mean:
 - Should be legal until viability
 - all cases (circumstances) should be legal
 - you are especially concerned about the hard cases (rape, incest, life of the mother, deformity of the child)
 - why? not human until viable
 - why? woman has right to her body
 - Note: This position is essentially the same as 1 above, except the person calls himself or herself "pro-life"
 - Note: Don't make this too easy. Try to hold back your perspective and make the person ask specific questions to discover it.
3. For Exercise 3, your job is to discover the other person's stance on abortion using clarification questions and to civilize the dialogue through listening to understand and through frequent references to common ground.
 - Reminders: Use variations of "What do you believe?" and "What do you mean?" and "Why do you believe it?"
 - Focus on the specific times and circumstances of pregnancy when the person believes abortion should be legal.
4. For Exercise 4, your job is the same as Exercise 3.

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Taller Partner

1. For Exercise 1, your job is to discover the other person's stance on abortion using clarification questions and to civilize the dialogue through listening to understand and through frequent references to common ground.
 - Reminders: Use variations of "What do you believe?" and "What do you mean?" and "Why do you believe it?"
 - Focus on the specific times and circumstances of pregnancy when the person believes abortion should be legal.
2. For Exercise 2, your job is the same as Exercise 1.
3. For Exercise 3, you play a persona in which you say, "I'm pro-choice," and by that you mean:
 - Should be legal through all nine months
 - Should only be legal in cases of rape, incest, and life of mother.
 - Why? Woman has a right to her body
 - Note: Don't make this too easy. Try to hold back your perspective and make the person ask specific questions to discover it.
4. For Exercise 4, you play a persona in which you say, "I'm pro-choice," and by that you mean:
 - Should be legal only in the first trimester
 - Should be legal under all circumstances (pick a few to start...don't give away the "all" too easily)
 - Why? Baby doesn't look human.
 - Note: Don't make this too easy. Try to hold back your perspective and make the person ask specific questions to discover it.

Dialogue Prompts: Trot Out the Toddler

Shorter Partner

5. For Exercise 5, you are pro-choice. Start the dialogue and then answer your partner's questions the way you think a reasonable pro-choice person would answer.
 - Pro-Choice: "Abortion should be legal because of poverty."
 - Pro-Life: ?
 - Etc.
6. For Exercise 6, you are pro-choice. Start the dialogue and then answer your partner's questions the way you think a reasonable pro-choice person would answer.
 - Pro-Choice: "Abortion should be legal because there are too many children in the world."
 - Pro-Life: ?
 - Etc.
7. For Exercise 7, your job is to use "trot out the toddler" to bring the refocus the conversation on the central question, "What is the unborn?"
 - You can use JFA's four steps: Agree, Apply (her argument to a two-year-old), Ask Why (it should not be legal to kill the two-year-old), Ah! (ask if the unborn were human, wouldn't we treat them the same as the two-year-old?)
 - You can use ERI's four steps: Affirm the Difference, Brace them for the weird question, Create a parallel scenario, and Describe the logic.
8. For Exercise 8, follow the directions for Exercise 7

Dialogue Prompts: Trot Out the Toddler

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5. For Exercise 5, your job is to use “trot out the toddler” to bring the refocus the conversation on the central question, “What is the unborn?”
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 - You can use ERI’s four steps: Affirm the Difference, Brace them for the weird question, Create a parallel scenario, and Describe the logic.
6. For Exercise 6, follow the directions for Exercise 5.
7. For Exercise 7, you are pro-choice. Start the dialogue and then answer your partner’s questions the way you think a reasonable pro-choice person would answer.
 - Pro-Choice: “Abortion should be legal if the woman doesn’t want a child.”
 - Pro-Life: ?
8. For Exercise 8, you are pro-choice. Start the dialogue and then answer your partner’s questions the way you think a reasonable pro-choice person would answer.
 - Pro-Choice: “Abortion should be legal if the child has Down syndrome.”
 - Pro-Life: ?

Dialogue Prompts: Biology

Shorter Partner

9. You are pro-choice.

- Begin by saying, "No one knows when life begins."
- Then at some point, say, "It's just a mass of tissue."
- Then, when forced to clarify, say that you believe it *is* an organism. It's just not a *person*.
- Note: This person that you are role-playing uses the term "life" to refer to personhood.
- Dialogue is over when you both realize you're not talking about biology anymore.

10. You are pro-life.

- Ask for clarification on what is meant by "life" – biological life or rights / value?
- If talking about biology, try to find out if the person thinks the unborn is living, human, and a whole organism.

Dialogue Prompts: Biology

Taller Partner

9. You are pro-life.
 - a. Ask for clarification on what is meant by “life” – biological life or rights / value?
 - b. If talking about biology, try to find out if the person thinks the unborn is living, human, and a whole organism.
10. You are pro-choice.
 - c. Begin by saying, “It’s not alive.”
 - d. Then at some point, say, “It’s just a mass of tissue.”
 - e. Then, when forced to clarify, say you don’t think it’s an organism.
 - f. Then listen for your partner’s defense of the unborn being an organism.
Respond as you suppose a reasonable person would respond.
 - g. Dialogue is over once you are convinced the unborn is an organism, but then you can say, “It’s not a person.”
 - h. Note: This person (that you are role-playing) uses the term “life” to refer to biological life, but note that he/she thinks it is not alive but it is a mass of tissue (which would be alive in some sense, right?). So this person either changed his/her view during the conversation or really did believe that the unborn is alive in the sense of being a mass of tissue, but is not alive in the sense of being an organism.

Dialogue Prompts: Equal Rights

Shorter Partner

11. You are pro-life.

- Pro-Choice: "It's a human organism, but it's not a person."
- Pro-Life: "Why don't you think it's a person?"
- Pro-Choice: **"It's not self-aware."**
- Pro-Life: ??
- [Only use the prompts below if you don't know what to say.]
 - What do you mean by "self-aware"?
 - Can you have more or less of this ability?
 - Do infants have this ability? If not, then they wouldn't have equal rights. But does that fit the world?
 - Does an animal have this ability? If so, then wouldn't it have equal rights?

12. You are pro-choice.

- Pro-Choice: "It's a human organism, but it's not a person."
- Pro-Life: "Why don't you think it's a person?"
- Pro-Choice: **"It's not aware of anything at all."**
- Pro-Life: ??

13. You are pro-life.

- Pro-Choice: "It's a human organism, but it's not a person."
- Pro-Life: "Why don't you think it's a person?"
- Pro-Choice: **"It can't feel pain."**
- Pro-Life: ??
- [Only use the prompts below if you don't know what to say.]
 - What do you mean by "feel pain"?
 - Can you have more or less of this ability?
 - Can we agree that the unborn feels pain from about 20 weeks from conception? If so, can we agree that on your view, abortion would be wrong after that point?
 - Does an animal have this ability? If so, then wouldn't it have equal rights? But if animals *don't* have equal rights, then it seems like this view wouldn't be a good explanation of equal rights. What do you think?

14. You are pro-choice.

- Pro-Choice: "It's a human organism, but it's not a person."
- Pro-Life: "Why don't you think it's a person?"
- Pro-Choice: **"The unborn is not able to think."**
- Pro-Life: ??

Dialogue Prompts: Equal Rights

Taller Partner

11. You are pro-choice.

- Pro-Choice: "It's a human organism, but it's not a person."
- Pro-Life: "Why don't you think it's a person?"
- Pro-Choice: **"It's not self-aware."**
- Pro-Life: ??

12. You are pro-life.

- Pro-Choice: "It's a human organism, but it's not a person."
- Pro-Life: "Why don't you think it's a person?"
- Pro-Choice: **"It's not aware of anything at all."**
- Pro-Life: ??
- [Only use the prompts below if you don't know what to say.]
 - What do you mean by "aware of anything at all"?
 - Can you have more or less of this ability?
 - Does an animal have this ability? If so, then wouldn't it have equal rights?

13. You are pro-choice.

- Pro-Choice: "It's a human organism, but it's not a person."
- Pro-Life: "Why don't you think it's a person?"
- Pro-Choice: **"It can't feel pain."**
- Pro-Life: ??

14. You are pro-life.

- Pro-Choice: "It's a human organism, but it's not a person."
- Pro-Life: "Why don't you think it's a person?"
- Pro-Choice: **"The unborn is not able to think."**
- Pro-Life: ??
- [Only use the prompts below if you don't know what to say.]
 - What do you mean by "able to think"?
 - Can you have more or less of this ability?
 - Do infants have this ability? If not, then infants wouldn't have equal rights. But does that fit the world?
 - Does an animal have this ability? If so, then wouldn't it have equal rights?

Dialogue Prompts: Question of Rape

Shorter Partner

15. You are pro-choice.

- Pro-Choice: “What if a woman was raped? Shouldn’t she be able to have an abortion?”
- Pro-Life: ?

16. You are pro-life.

- Pro-Choice: “If a woman didn’t even consent, then she shouldn’t have to carry a baby.”
- Pro-Life: ?
- [Only use the prompts below if you don’t know what to say.]
 - Meet the relational challenge first.
 - Sympathy
 - Silence
 - Admit you can’t understand.

Dialogue Prompts: Question of Rape

Taller Partner

15. You are pro-life.

- a. Pro-Choice: “What if a woman was raped? Shouldn’t she be able to have an abortion?”
- b. Pro-Life: ?
 - [Only use the prompts below if you don’t know what to say.]
 - Meet the relational challenge first.
 - Sympathy
 - Silence
 - Admit you can’t understand.

16. You are pro-choice.

- Pro-Choice: “If a woman didn’t even consent, then she shouldn’t have to carry a baby.”
- Pro-Life: ?

Dialogue Prompts: Bodily Rights

Shorter Partner

17. You are pro-choice.

- Pro-Choice: It's a part of her body!
- [You mean that it's biologically not it's own body. It's like an organ of her body..]

18. You are pro-life.

- Pro-Choice: It's in her body!
- Pro-Life: ?
- [Only use the prompts below if you don't know what to say.]
 - You need to ask clarification questions to discover whether this person is talking about biology, rights/value, or bodily rights.
 - You need to recognize the personal aspect that this claim has. This is somebody's body we're talking about. Show sensitivity.

19. You are pro-choice.

- Pro-Choice: She can do what she wants with her body!
- [You mean that even though it's a person, she can have an abortion because she has a right to do anything she wants with anything inside of her body.]

Dialogue Prompts: Bodily Rights

Taller Partner

17. You are pro-life.

- Pro-Choice: It's a part of her body!
- Pro-Life: ?
- [Only use the prompts below if you don't know what to say.]
 - You need to ask clarification questions to discover whether this person is talking about biology, rights/value, or bodily rights.
 - If she means, "It's not an organism," then discuss biology.
 - If she means, "It's not a person," then discuss the Equal Rights Argument.
 - If she means, "Even though it's a person, you can kill it," then you need a response to this bodily rights argument.
 - You need to recognize the personal aspect that this claim has. This is somebody's body we're talking about. Show sensitivity.

18. You are pro-choice.

- Pro-Choice: It's in her body!
- [You mean that it's not a person because it's inside of someone else's body.]

19. You are pro-life.

- Pro-Choice: She can do what she wants with her body!
- Pro-Life: ?
- [Only use the prompts below if you don't know what to say.]
 - You need to ask clarification questions to discover whether this person is talking about biology, rights/value, or bodily rights.
 - If she means, "It's not an organism," then discuss biology.
 - If she means, "It's not a person," then discuss the Equal Rights Argument.
 - If she means, "Even though it's a person, you can kill it," then you need a response to this bodily rights argument.
 - You need to recognize the personal aspect that this claim has. This is somebody's body we're talking about. Show sensitivity.

Dialogue Prompts: The “Real” World

Shorter Partner

20. You are pro-life.

- a. Pro-Life: What do you think about abortion?
- b. Pro-Choice: ??
- c. Pro-Life: ??

21. You are pro-choice.

- a. Pro-Life: What do you think about abortion?
- b. Pro-Choice: ??
- c. Pro-Life: ??

Dialogue Prompts: The “Real” World

Taller Partner

20. You are pro-choice.

- Pro-Life: What do you think about abortion?
- Pro-Choice: ??
- Pro-Life: ??

16. You are pro-life.

- Pro-Life: What do you think about abortion?
- Pro-Choice: ??
- Pro-Life: ??