

JFA Advanced Dialogue Workshop (2024)

Links

- “Abortion: From Debate to Dialogue” Interactive Guide v. 3.5:
<https://doc.jfaweb.org/Training/ADD/ADD-Interactive-Guide-v3pt5.pdf>
 - (This link is only for SFLA RC’s for this training session. Please send students to www.jfaweb.org/add-ig to get their own interactive guide.)
- Invitation to Dialogue Brochure: <http://doc.jfaweb.org/Training/JFA-Invitation-Brochure.pdf>
 - (This link is only for SFLA RC’s for this training session. Please send students to www.jfaweb.org/brochure to get their own brochure.)
- Request Printed Materials from JFA: <https://www.jfaweb.org/request-printed-materials>
- Notes and Links on Many Topics: www.jfaweb.org/notes

Outline for the Day

1. 10 AM Opening Story: Steve and Shelley at ASU.
2. 10:05 AM Role-Playing with Steve. Need 3 volunteers.
3. 10:30 AM Role-Playing with Steve. Need 3 volunteers.
4. 10:50 AM BREAK
5. 11:00 PM Role-Playing in smaller groups with JFA Mentors
6. 11:30 PM Q&A
7. 11:45 PM Bridge to Healing: Helping Post-Abortive Women and Men
8. 12:05 PM BREAK
9. 12:10 PM Should women be punished?
10. 12:15 PM Training New Pro-Life Advocates: What Challenges Are You Facing?
11. 12:20 PM Practice with a Partner in Breakout Rooms
12. 12:50 PM Your Response and Final Q&A: www.jfaweb.org/updates

Other Links

- This Outline: <http://doc.jfaweb.org/Training/SFLA-1-12-2024.pdf>
- Improvise Dialogue Prompts: <http://doc.jfaweb.org/Training/Paired-Improvise-Helps.pdf>
- Framework for Developing Responses: <http://doc.jfaweb.org/Training/SFLA-Team-Training.pdf>
- JFA Certification Assignments can really help! www.jfaweb.org/certification-assignments

JFA Advanced Dialogue Workshop (for SFLA RC’s) - January 12, 2024

Steve Wagner - www.jfaweb.org - @stephenmwagner

Responses to Questions from 2023 (by Rebekah Dyer)

1. More specific information on Life of the mother cases other than ectopic pregnancy - how do we respond to if the mother has cancer and needs chemo?

[Love3 Notes — Justice For All \(jfaweb.org\)](#)

IN-DEPTH RESOURCES FOR “THREATS TO THE LIFE OF THE MOTHER”

Abortion: From Debate to Dialogue - The Interactive Guide (Pages 108-109)

Other Articles You May Find Helpful (Justice For All posts these as perspectives to consider. These articles do not necessarily explain the position of Justice For All on these questions.)

“Medicalizing Abortion Decisions,” Thomas Murphy Goodwin, *First Things*, March 1996

“Is Abortion Ever Justified? A moral examination of the ‘life of the mother’ exception.” - Michael Spielman, *Abort73.com*

American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists

The idea that there are two patients:

“...the status of the fetus has been elevated to that of a patient who, in large measure, can be given the same meticulous care that obstetricians provide for pregnant women.” *Williams Obstetrics, 20th Edition, F. Cary Cunningham et. al., Appleton & Lange, 1996, p. 78*

(In the more recent *Williams Obstetrics, 25th Edition*, p. 124, the substance of this comment is preserved, but with slightly different wording: “An important result is that fetal status has been elevated to that of a patient who, in large measure, can be given the same meticulous care that obstetricians provide for gravidas. In our 25th edition, the entirety of Section 5 is dedicated to the fetal patient, as are individual chapters in other sections. Indeed, virtually every aspect of obstetrics can affect the developing fetus.”

More Notes and Resources on “Threats to the Life of the Mother”

2. What is the most difficult scenario you've had thrown at you and how did you respond?

A really difficult scenario Rebekah Dyer had was being ganged up on by a group of angry pro-choice people with one of them yelling in her face and getting aggressively close to her physically. In those scenarios, I think it's helpful to remain calm. Do not yell back and respond in kind. If there is danger of physical violence, remove yourself from the situation if possible. If there is no concern for violence, you can try to broker an agreement with them by laying out some rules for engagement. If they are just going to

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continue to steam roll you then you can explain that you are not going to continue to talk with them. Express that you desire to hear them out but that it needs to go both ways.

3. Defining personhood: How to convince those who recognize the preborn as humans, but don't believe they deserve the same human rights we endow to persons until viability, birth, etc.

Focusing on the equal rights argument is helpful here. Make the case that human nature is what grounds our equality, not some other characteristic that some humans have and other humans do not. It can be helpful to also go back in history and look at how defining personhood by excluding some humans has given us atrocities. It's important to clarify with the person that you do not think they are a racist or Nazi. You are just concerned about the implications of this view. It can also be helpful to add a point of clarification that pro-life people do not think the fetus has more rights than women. We just believe they have the basic right to not be killed.

You can also try turning the question around. Viability is an assertion, not an argument. Why should I believe that our rights come from viability while others say birth or heartbeat or quickening? They are saying, "The unborn aren't persons because they aren't viable." What they need to say is, "Viability is what makes you a person because __." Framing it this way highlights that it is likely circular reasoning.

4. How to debunk misinformation. Ok laws are clear, but a lot of young people think that care for women who have experienced a miscarriage isn't available. How can we kindly and gently correct them without sounding prideful or like a know it all?

Avoid immediately just telling them what the law is. agree that if laws didn't allow women to receive care for miscarriages, we wouldn't support them. Then we could ask them if they've had a chance to look into the laws and what they say? Then we could offer what you know. It'll feel less abrupt if we approach it this way.

5. How to avoid coming off as patronizing or pandering when someone shares deeply personal experiences they've had with a difficult pregnancy or abortion.

When someone shares a personal experience with abortion, be sensitive to that personal information they've shared. You can ask them how they are doing, how this experience impacted their view, ask them if they want to share more or if they'd rather move on, express sympathy and concern for such a difficult experience.

Have resource ready to let them know about: [Healing After Abortion — Justice For All \(jfaweb.org\)](https://jfaweb.org)

6. How to respond to people bringing up young girls who get raped and pregnant. I've had a lot of people say that since 10-year-olds aren't meant to have babies and it could be very harmful to their bodies, abortion would be the only right option. Although it's an extremely rare and specific situation and I know it's unfair that they bring it up to justify all abortion and I point that out, I would still like to know how to respond to the specific scenario for when someone is legitimately and sincerely asking.

Be willing to stay relational here. Think about how tragic it is for a ten year old to become pregnant which is usually a sign of abuse. It can be tempting to point out how rare this is, but it's important to know that when we do that too quickly, pro-choice people feel like we are dismissing the pain of rape victims.

Once we taken time to be relational, trotting out a toddler is helpful for this situation.

ERI: [Equipped for Life Podcast: #81: The Pregnant 10 Year-Old: Thinking Well About This Tragic Story \(with Robin Atkins\) \(libsyn.com\)](https://libsyn.com)

7. The importance of using the language of "direct abortion?"

For purposes of dialogue, it's not particularly important to use the language of "direct abortion" since there are some abortions like RU-486 that could be considered "non-direct" but they are still wrong. Whether it's really direct or somewhat indirect, elective abortions are the intentional killing of innocent children in the womb.

8. This isn't a question: but a difficult thing for me to address is when they admit the child is alive and ok with killing it. This could feed into the woman's rights superseding the baby's.

Sometimes when the person admits the unborn are human and they are ok with killing them anyways, that points to a deeper worldview problem. You may have to sidestep the abortion and talk about why any human beings matter at all. The JFA staff has had many conversations with people who have essentially said that if abortion is killing a human being, it wouldn't matter. After some clarification questions were asked, it became clear that the person didn't see their life as valuable at all. If someone is struggling to

understand their own value, they are not going to understand the value that a child they cannot see has.

9. I've seen pro-abortion folks celebrating all the chemical abortion stuff because they are excited for women to have "more privacy and can have the abortion in the comfort of their own homes" (which is obviously gross) but idk just general tips for addressing this that's not the usual talking points maybe?

Focusing on the fact the abortion pill kills a human being should be our focus here. While the possible side effects that women can experience are important to know, the side effects should not be central to our discussions. The abortion pill is a very effective way to kill a human being and we need to focus on that.

10. How to articulate that defunding PP, and furthermore redirecting those funds to improve foster care, etc. would be an overall better option for society. Sometimes, pro-abortion students on campus have difficulty registering why this would be constructive and how we truly don't need planned parenthood, even for non-abortion related services.

There is so much to cover in conversations about abortion that it's better to avoid this point. Again, abortion is not wrong if it's not killing a human being. Our focus needs to be there. If it's brought up immediately, you can agree that if abortion is not killing a human being, then you agree that defunding PP makes no sense. But if abortion is killing a human being, then we should be concerned about that.

[A Conversation with a Planned Parenthood Volunteer — Justice For All \(jfaweb.org\)](http://jfaweb.org)

11. I had a lot of students at this past tour bring up essentially their own definition of consciousness claiming that you to have what they call a "lived experience" to have value in society. These were unreasonable people in my opinion but it came up pretty commonly. Maybe another angle to take regarding this?

Ask for more clarification on what they mean by "lived experience." This is making an assertion rather than an argument. Their argument: "The unborn aren't persons because they don't have lived experiences." What they need to say: "Lived experiences make you a person because ____." The equal rights argument would then be helpful here. Humans aren't valuable because of their experiences, even though experiences are important. It's not wrong to kill someone because they have certain experiences. It's wrong to kill them because they are human beings.

[Love3 Notes — Justice For All \(jfaweb.org\)](https://www.jfaweb.org)

12. I get a little tripped up when people say that their religion protects abortion so making abortion illegal hinders their right to practice their religion. (Have had this many times before with mostly Jewish people.)

Trotting out toddler is helpful here. Say there's a religion that says it's ok and even virtuous to kill toddlers. It would be important to have laws that protected toddlers even if it "violated" this religion. The focus is on actions that harm other human beings.

[Love3 Notes — Justice For All \(jfaweb.org\)](https://www.jfaweb.org)

[Two Buckets — Justice For All \(jfaweb.org\)](https://www.jfaweb.org)

13. Responses to being a man and talking about bodily autonomy.

[It's Her Body — Justice For All \(jfaweb.org\)](https://www.jfaweb.org)

[A Gracious and Courageous Response — Justice For All \(jfaweb.org\)](https://www.jfaweb.org)

[Why Men Can & Should Talk About Abortion — Justice For All \(jfaweb.org\)](https://www.jfaweb.org)

14. The violin argument

Clarify the difference between not helping someone that is injured and intentionally killing one's own child by lethal injection, dismemberment, or starvation. ERI's video on blood donation and bodily rights is incredibly helpful in addressing this issue.

[Blood Donation and Bodily Rights Arguments - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)