



A Framework for Thinking Through Any Tough Question

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
<p><b>Moral:</b> What's the correct answer on the right thing to do?</p>	<p><b>Assumptions:</b> What worldview assumptions do I have that will complicate the conversation?</p>	<p><b>Practical:</b> What should we say about it in our conversations or teach pro-life advocates to say about it?</p>
<p><b>Legal:</b> What should the ideal law be?</p>		

Step 1. Moral / Legal

## Step 2: Assumptions

### A Few Notes

1. Who are we leading?

*If it's average pro-life advocates, they're not going to be able to track with immense amounts of data. But can they still have conversations?*

2. Who are we aiming to convert: A suggestion
3. Most of Us Are Followers of Christ, but We're Doing Our Work in a Pluralistic Context

### The Bridge: Keep Your Assumptions in Mind

3. Don't Make Claims You Can't Substantiate, Especially When You Aren't the Expert

*What might make sense to you may mystify the person who doesn't share your assumptions.*

4. Assume the Worst Case / Focus on the Strongest Form of the Argument

*What might make sense to you may mystify the person who doesn't share your assumptions.*

4. Use Your Categories to Help Guide Your Steps But Realize There May Be a Wide Chasm

*What might make sense to you may mystify the person who doesn't share your assumptions.*

**What Is the Unborn:** Assuming it's not / Arguing it's not / Agreeing it is (or it's irrelevant)

**Deeper Worldview:** Human dignity and natural rights / Utilitarian / Nihilism / Worldview Mush

### 3: Practical

#### Find Common Ground When Possible

Ask Questions with an Open Heart

Listen to Understand

Give the Benefit of the Doubt

Identify the Best Version of the Argument

Find the Relational Connection: Every Argument Is Both Relational and Intellectual

Grant points that are distractions or points that you appreciate

#### Get Back to the Main Issue

Memorize one sound bite that keeps you and the other person focused

What does the tough question or hard case show?

Find a story that moves the heart back to what's most important.

#### Admit What You Don't Know and Do the Work When it Counts

Having the answers actually is less attractive to some people we're trying to win.

Admitting complexity is the best long-term strategy.

Focus on learning those facts that can help you persuade those who are persuadable.



**Notes on Teaching Average Pro-Life Advocates**

**Role Play**

**Seat Work ► Feet Work**

**Keep Focused on the Basics Until They're Mastered**

**JFA Teacher Program (Access to Scripts, etc)**

## **Bodily Rights — Practical**

*Summary: Many people say that a woman should have a right to do what she wants with her body. This session features our surprising response to this argument.*

### **Find Common Ground When Possible**

Relational challenge

Craft a response with the strongest version of the argument in mind.

### **Get Back to the Main Issue (Intellectual Challenge)**

Help / Not Help

Help / Not Help / Kill

[www.jfaweb.org/bodily-rights](http://www.jfaweb.org/bodily-rights) ; [www.jfaweb.org/7-notes-6](http://www.jfaweb.org/7-notes-6)

Refocus on the majority of abortions (consensual sex)

### **Admit What You Don't Know and Do the Work When it Counts**

## **"The Unborn Is Not a Person Because It's Not Conscious." — Practical**

### **Find Common Ground When Possible**

Early Embryo versus Fetus

What does the person mean by "conscious"?

Almost always meant as "Not degreed."

Awareness of pain (awareness of anything at all) / Self-Awareness / Rational Thought /  
Minimal Thinking Ability

### **Get Back to the Main Issue**

#### **(Teaching the Blue Box to Pro-Life Newcomers)**

Lay out the Equal Rights Mystery

Clarify who would be in and who would be out

Ask, "Does that make sense?"

### **Admit What You Don't Know and Do the Work When it Counts**

#### **What Is Consciousness?**

Don't act like a neuroscientist when you are not one.

Don't grant that the neuroscientist is the expert. / Brain states are the neuroscientist's expertise. Mental states are not. The existence of immaterial reality is not.

#### **What Is the Ultimate Ground for Equal Rights?**

Is it a second-order functional ability or the Image of God or what?

## **Life of the Mother — Practical**

### **Find Common Ground When Possible**

Would you support a law which allowed abortion

Clarify: Can we agree there are two patients? (If not, focus on “What is the unborn?”

Clarify: Which circumstances? Do either of us know the details or are they vague?

### **Get Back to the Main Issue**

### **Admit What You Don’t Know and Do the Work When it Counts**

Potential Problems with Claiming Abortion Is Never Necessary

**Social Justice and Black Lives Matter — Practical**

**Find Common Ground When Possible**

**Get Back to the Main Issue**

**Admit What You Don't Know and Do the Work When it Counts**