

QUESTIONS, AND ANSWERS: THE WINNERS OF OUR 2023 ESSAY CONTEST



Grades 3-5: Write an essay of 200-250 words on one of the following topics.

1: What can you and your parents do to show that you love babies, and to help their mothers take care of them.

2: Do you have grandparents, or older family friends who can no longer do some of the things you can? Do you know someone who is challenged in some other way -- who can't walk, or can't see, or hear, or speak well? What can you and your family do to include in your life someone "different", so they feel loved and needed?

First Place, 3rd to 5th Grade

Pro-Life Essay

By Elija Hertz, 5th Grade

Some people do not think that the elderly or disabled matter or that their life has value because they may look different. I disagree because they do matter. They are just the same as everyone else. Are they alive? Yes. Do they have a purpose? Yes. They are not just an animal. They are made in the image of God.

We could help those people who are different in many ways. You could get their food and water for them. If they cannot walk you could help them get into their wheelchair. If they cannot work a remote for a television, use phone or computer, you could help them. You could help them take out the trash or get their mail for them. You could invite them to your house. You could buy them clothes or food. You could stay at their house and help them to feel loved, because people usually try to avoid them. You could help around their house with chores and even help them if they like to decorate for a holiday like Christmas or Easter. A community can provide the assistance they need to survive and even thrive.

There are many ways to help people that are different. I hope you are one of those people who help them, not one of those people who tries to avoid anyone that is considered different. If you see an elderly or disabled person that needs help on the side of the road or anywhere else, help them, because most likely no one else will. In conclusion, all life has value and matters. According to God, we are all wonderfully made.

Second Place, 3rd to 5th Grade

Pro Life Essay

By AlliGrace Maniscalco, 3rd Grade

We were all babies at one time. Without babies, there would be no people. Babies are valuable, they are cute, and they grow up to be adults. Babies might be weak when they are little, but they grow up to be strong and wise. Adults had to be a baby before, and babies are good because we were all babies so we are all the same. Babies need adults to feed them because they cannot do that and other things for themselves, so we need to help them.

It is important for people to make babies feel welcome especially if they are sad or crying. They might feel sad, but when you tell them that God loves them, they will feel loved and welcomed. We can help by hugging the babies when they are sad when their moms leave. By being nice to babies, we are being a good example to them so they can grow up to be nice to other people. Showing people how to be nice to each other helps the world to be a nicer place.

Honorable Mention, 3rd to 5th Grade

By Galillee Clark, 5th Grade

My family and I have always loved babies no matter where they come from. To show how much we love and care about babies we decided to open our home to offer a safe place for them to call home.

My family has ten children in it. Three of the kids were born to our family biologically and the rest of them were adopted from all over the world. About thirteen years ago my family begin the process of adopting children. We adopted three kids within the first six years of opening our home. One of those kids was me. My family choose to travel all the way to China to adopt me and become my family. When my biological mother could not take care of me on her own, my family came and brought me to their home, where I am so loved and cared for. After the first three adoptions we began to open our home to foster care. We have learned to care for all kids of babies and kids.

We show our love for babies by caring for them when their families are unable to. We also show our love for these mothers by helping care for their kids when they are unable to. We have and always will have an open spot in our family for anyone who needs it.

Grades 6-8: Write an essay of 300 to 400 words on one of the following topics.

1: Everyone on earth begins life in his or her mother's womb. Being pro-life means supporting the right of each life to grow, thrive, and experience many good things. Why is it important for people to be pro-life?

2. Some people are born with problems that make their lives difficult. Others become ill, or are injured. Also, as people get old they may not be able to take care of themselves. These people may feel that their lives don't matter. How can you help them to feel wanted, and loved?



First Place, 6th to 8th Grade

Life Is a Gift

By Praise Clark, 6th grade

Why is it important for people to be pro-life? It is important for people to be pro-life, or I would not be alive. Many people think that life is only valuable if it is perfect. My life did not start out perfect, but that was only part of my story. I was born sick, extremely poor, and placed in an orphanage. Pro-choice sympathizers would have viewed my life as unimportant or to be pitied unto death.

My life is not to be pitied; it is to be celebrated. My journey to life has been filled with people who believe that I have value. That started with my biological mom. She was brave enough to give me life in very rural Ethiopia. My mom passed away shortly after I was born, and I then encountered my next pro-life heroes. The orphanage workers valued my life enough to make sure I was treated for illness so that my life could continue. Money is always scarce in Ethiopia. I am so grateful that the orphanage valued my life enough to invest in the medical treatments necessary to make me well. The next pro-life advocates to enter my life were my adoptive parents. They valued me enough to come and get me in Ethiopia and to make me their daughter. They didn't care about my beginnings. Instead, they brought the hope of what I could become.

Being pro-life means that you value life no matter how it starts. You are an ambassador for the hope of what someone's life can become. It is sad to think about how many things this world has missed out on by ending someone's story before it has even started. Society may have pitied a mom and encouraged her to abort the person who would have cured cancer. I am so grateful for the pro-life people who brought hope and value to me in Ethiopia instead of death.

Second Place, 6th to 8th Grade

Why Pro-Life Is Important

By Kaydance Sousa, 6th grade

Pro-Life is important because people should believe the truth, that God is the only one that can give and take life.

Life is special because everyone's life matters. The reason why life is special and important is because each person is made in the image of God. John 3:16 says "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." This is why you love and cherish your life, because God gave up His only son for us. This is why your life matters to the one and only true God.

Another good thing to believe is everyone has the right to live. This is called pro-life. Pro-life isn't just a belief, it is the way you look at life. Life is a gift that you were given by the one and only true God. If you turn to God for everyday struggles you have, your life will be on the right path. Everyone has the right to live whether it is hard, busy, or not always fun. Ever since Adam and Eve sinned, we live in a world that is not always easy or fun. But your life is always going to matter to God.

Life is a gift from God and very important. Ever since the day you were born God has counted every breath you took, and will take. Life is of great value because you are made in the image of God and perfect just the way He made you. There are absolutely no mistakes. You should always be thankful that God made you and should realize it is a blessing for everyone because God loves you no matter what. I think pro-life means to be for life and for everyone to live it the way God intended His children to live. This is why pro-life is important.

Grades 9-12: Write an essay of 400-500 words on one of the following topics.



1. *Why are you pro-life? Share a personal story if you would like to, relating either to the life of the unborn or to the life of someone who is old, or physically or mentally challenged in some way.*

2. *Many people today are confused about what it means to be pro-life. How can you respectfully share your belief that the life of the unborn should be protected by law?*

First Place, 9th to 12th Grade

By Stellar Clark, 10th grade

The term pro-life has often been associated with negativity. Being pro-life is often regarded as a person who lacks compassion for the challenges that women face when they have an unplanned pregnancy. This perspective of pro-life couldn't be further from the truth. It has been my privilege to be part of a family who lives out the true definition of pro-life. Pro-Life means every life is valuable including the mom with the unplanned pregnancy, the critically ill, the neurologically different, the physically challenged, and the aged.

My families pro-life journey began in 2010. My parents saw the difficult circumstance that women found themselves in as they tried to decide about bring a new life into the world. It was important to my parents that women who bravely chose life for the children had support and love. This led to my families first adoption. This new brother would have neurological differences that test my patience, but also teach me the value of every single life. Just a few years later my parents flew across the world to adopt my now best friend from Ethiopia. At the time they adopted her she was critically ill. If she hadn't become a part of our family, she would have likely died in her orphanage. This amazing transformation of a valued life led my family to a joyful and courageous little girl in China. My sister's story is inspiring. She was on a waiting kids list as the adoption agency couldn't find a family willing to take a child with deformed arms. Or family knew the moment we saw her that she was meant for us. Her limb difference doesn't devalue her in any way. In many ways she teaches other how incredible life is. Our family is now involved in the foster care system. We welcome kids that much of society believes shouldn't exist. Society says these children's lives are so difficult that they shouldn't have been given life in the first place. They obviously haven't met my 4 newest siblings. These kids have survived in-utero substance exposure. They are miracles and their lives are valuable not only to our family but to a society that needs to see the potential of all human beings.

I have witnessed time and time again the value of human life. From the outside looking in, the start of to my siblings' lives may seem difficult. Society at some point in time has deemed each of them to be unwanted or unvalued. The problem is people wanted the start of their story to also be the end. The best stories are about the endings not the beginnings. I am so grateful that they were given life and that their story didn't end before it even began. Their story

now reads wanted, loved, and chosen. Pro-life means that I see the value in the unseen, and then I speak up for those who have been devalued by the crowd.

Second Place, 9h to 12th Grade

Why am I Pro-Life

By Amabella Smith, 10th Grade

Throughout history, man has put the needs of himself above the needs of those around him and acted out of the convenience of his situation. Through this, friendships have been lost, families have been broken, and lives have been lost. Many who want to have an abortion may be hurt and their circumstances may seem unjust. But no matter how unfair the circumstances may seem, no matter the desperate situation one might be found in, there is no reasonable excuse for the killing of the unborn or the unable.

When my family and I were sitting around our small dining-room table, we were discussing our pro-life essays with my Oma. It was a Tuesday night, which is when we have my Oma over for dinner. As we were talking, she told us a little bit about her personal story. When my great-grandmother, Nana, was four months pregnant with my Oma, she caught the German Measles. With this disease brought the fear that the baby could be blind or disabled. Her doctor suggested that she have an abortion. At the time, to have an abortion was illegal in California. This would mean taking a trip to Texas to have an abortion. Although it was unaffordable for them, my Nana and Papa said that she would never have aborted her anyway. Now here we are decades later, with my Oma here to tell the story.

During this time, a common reason for abortion was that the baby may be disabled. Through this reason, it acknowledges that there is life in the womb, and that the only reason they are killing the baby is because of their possible defect. The baby's right to live should not be determined by a disability. Nor should a baby's value be determined by a disability. Whether the reason behind an abortion is convenience or "health" reasons, abortion backed by any excuse is murder. Understandably, all circumstances are not fair and just, but the life inside of you is not yours.

Through her story it shows that not only would an abortion have taken my Oma out of the lives of my great-grandparents, but an entire nine other people would not be alive today. Nine people whose lives have been greatly influenced by her. The reason I am able to be here today is because my Nana and Papa chose life. Although I am indirectly affected by this decision, I am pro-life because I believe that life begins at conception and should be protected all throughout life. Through my Oma's account, she left us with an empowering statement. "They decided to love me unconditionally."