

Writer's Memo: "A War of Words: The Role of Rhetoric in Reproductive Rights"

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I wrote this piece for my University of Florida course, "Analytical Writing: The Rhetoric of Health and Medicine" taught by Dr. Alison Reynolds. However, the paper became so much more than an assignment to me. I fell in love with the influence of rhetoric and the ability to apply it to a topic as timely as abortion. Since the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, a basic understanding of the influence of rhetoric is necessary to be an informed citizen. I found myself learning the power of words and I was inspired to share my knowledge with those outside of just my English class. I hope that this paper at least begins to address the escalating and polarizing rhetoric in the abortion debate.

This paper is relevant to everyone in the United States since abortion rhetoric influences men and women alike, academics, policymakers, and healthcare professionals. Rather than propagating any one political, religious, or moral ideology regarding abortion, I hope to share crucial insight regarding the influence of words in the abortion debate. My goal for this paper is to bring awareness to the power of word choice and the role of language in the type of society we hope to become. Rhetoric is often overlooked or used subliminally in abortion discussions. A better understanding of the repercussions of abortion rhetoric and the purposeful intent behind our words is necessary for medically and politically sound decisions. It is my hope that this paper will resonate with a diverse audience and contribute to a more informed and nuanced discussion of abortion, while encouraging empathy across all perspectives.