

Abortion in the U.S.: Key Vocabulary

General terms

- Abortion – ending a pregnancy.
- Reproductive rights – the right to make decisions about one's own reproductive health.
- Pregnancy termination – a medical way to say abortion.
- Unplanned pregnancy – a pregnancy that was not intended.

Political sides

- Pro-choice – supporting the right of women to choose abortion.
- Pro-life – opposing abortion, believing life begins at conception.
- Abortion ban – a law that forbids abortion.
- Restrictions – rules that limit access (e.g., time limits, waiting periods).

Law & politics

- Roe v. Wade (1973) – the Supreme Court case that legalized abortion nationwide.
- Dobbs v. Jackson (2022) – the decision that ended federal abortion rights.
- Federal law – laws made by the U.S. government.
- State law – laws made by individual states.
- Constitutional right – a right guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

Debate language

- Moral dilemma – a difficult choice about what is right or wrong.
- Personal freedom / bodily autonomy – the right to make decisions about your own body.
- Healthcare issue – seeing abortion as part of medical care.
- Religious values – moral beliefs based on religion.
- Social inequality – differences in opportunities between rich and poor.

Useful phrases for debates

- I strongly believe that ...
- It is unfair to say that ...
- One could argue that ...
- On the other hand, some people think that ...
- This shows that abortion is not only a personal issue, but also a political one.
- We must consider the consequences for young women and families.