

CAMPUS ABORTION DISCUSSION GUIDE

As you ask fellow students at your school to get involved with abortion rights, it's important to articulate why fighting for abortion access is important.

Q: WHY IS ORGANIZING FOR ABORTION ON CAMPUS IMPORTANT?

A: The general answer is simple: abortion access is a student need! Students need and deserve access to healthcare like anyone else. That includes abortion, as well as other sexual and reproductive healthcare services like STD screenings, contraception, and annual exams. It's also important for colleges: after *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, 72% of college students said their state's laws around reproductive health influence their decision to stay enrolled in their school.

Q: HOW MANY YOUNG PEOPLE ACTUALLY GET ABORTIONS?

A: Specific student statistics can be hard to find, but data collected by the CDC in 2020 showed that 19.2% of people who had abortions were between the ages of 20 and 24, the highest percentage of any age group. Overall, 1 in 4 people with the ability to become pregnant will have an abortion in their lifetime. Everyone knows and loves someone who has had an abortion.

Q: I THOUGHT ABORTION WAS...

A: Many people have misconceptions about abortion. Here are five quick but impactful facts.

1. Abortion is a human right.
2. Abortion is normal. Categorizing abortion differently from other healthcare procedures leads to stigma and discrimination.
3. Abortion is routine and safe. It is one of the safest medical procedures a patient can receive. The risk of complications is less than 1 percent.
4. Transgender and non-binary people also need access to abortion care. Inclusive language like "pregnant people" recognizes everyone's human rights.
5. The majority of Americans believe the right to abortion should be protected.

Q: WHAT ABORTION ACCESS ISSUES ARE IMPORTANT ON CAMPUS?

A: There's so much we can organize around, and having conversations like this is the best way to start. Other important issues include ensuring comprehensive sexual health education, advocating for abortion pill access, educating students about how to spot fake clinics that pose as abortion providers and are often positioned near campuses, and learning about student council and city council policies and how to introduce an abortion resolution.