

Process Paper

My National History Day project is about the Supreme Court case of Roe v. Wade, and how different opinions and beliefs influenced the decision. Roe v. Wade was a court case from 1973, which declared that a woman has the choice to have an abortion in the first trimester of her pregnancy. I chose this topic because it focuses on abortion, and I have always had strong feelings against abortion. My feelings against abortion have become stronger after hearing stories about lives that would have been lost if abortion was the choice one person made.

Throughout my research, I used a variety of secondary sources. One of the most helpful secondary sources I used was a website, "The Right to an Abortion," because it made the case more understandable on both sides. Also I used various secondary sources for my timeline, which was important to my website. All my other secondary sources helped me develop an understanding about the importance of Roe v. Wade in history.

However, my primary sources were essential to my website content. All the primary sources helped with first-hand accounts of Roe v. Wade. Through the interviews and autobiographies, I learned what the time of Roe

v. Wade was really like. I interviewed four important people who contributed to the current abortion laws. I interviewed Sarah Weddington, the winning attorney of Roe v. Wade, John Tolle, an assistant District Attorney in Dallas at the time, Courtney Kline, a woman who almost turned to abortion after she was raped, and Suzi Alexander, a Planned Parenthood Stewardship Manager. Norma McCorvey, who was Jane Roe in the case, and Sarah Weddington both wrote autobiographies, and I had the opportunity to view both. Every primary source I used contributed to my website, so all were great resources for my current knowledge.

The road to where my website is now wasn't easy, but countless hours of hard work paid off. First, I found who the case involved, how the case began, why the case occurred, and what the case was actually about. After those basic questions were answered, I moved on to typing my information in paragraph form. Then I created my pages and found images and video for the pages. Finally, I started putting everything together on my pages. After everything was set, I revised my pages to reflect the hard work I put into my website.

This topic relates well to exchange and encounter in history. The court case of Roe v. Wade includes many exchanges of beliefs and

opinions, in and outside the courtroom. The encounter between people after the case comes in the form of protests, efforts to reverse the ruling, and, unfortunately, violence has played a role, too. The impact of the decision has confirmed a woman's right to choose what she wants to do with her reproductive life. However, *Roe v. Wade* still continues to bring controversy to Americans' daily lives, and plays a major role in the political process.