

1: RECOGNIZE VALUE: Before you do anything you must first recognize the other person as ANOTHER PERSON!! The person you are speaking with is just as valuable as the unborn. If you treat the person with the infinite value they deserve, this will help them to see the value of all human life, beginning with their own.

2: BE NORMAL: As pro-lifers, we can be pretty awkward in our approach and demeanor. So, as a tip, try to not be extremely awkward. If something that you do could make someone else uncomfortable then try to avoid it. For example:

3: ASK QUESTIONS: It is important for us to not assume what the other person thinks. It is counterproductive to put words in their mouths, since no two pro-choice people are exactly alike. Many differ on when the unborn becomes valuable, what circumstances warrant abortion, etc. Ask them questions to find out their opinion. Ironically, you'll find that many people do not really know what they think beyond vague generalizations. By asking questions we accomplish two things: we come to understand the person better as an individual, and we can lead them to sincerely reevaluate their own opinions or lack thereof.

4: LISTEN: When someone asks us a question, we expect them to actually LISTEN to our answer. Yet, in conversations about life issues, we can be so focused on what we want to say next that we don't truly listen. We miss the opportunity to truly learn about the person we're speaking with. We need to understand where they are coming from. We do not listen just long enough to find that one thing that we want to address. No. We listen to put ourselves in that person's shoes. We listen to understand.

5: COMMON GROUND: When in conversation we want to find things that we both agree on without compromising our own position. This builds rapport and establishes a relationship between you and the person you are speaking with. When someone says that poverty is an issue and women should have the right to abortion because of poverty, we do not just say, "But what about the child?" We first acknowledge that poverty is a problem (if you think that it is). We could say something like, "I agree with you that poverty is a really serious issue and I think that we should do everything we can to help those in poverty get out of that situation." Then you could continue on with the conversation about abortion. (To learn where to go next in this conversation ask us about doing a Pro-Life Persuasion training for your community.)

6: GET ON TOPIC: Many times our conversations may go off topic, i.e. we will not address the fundamental question "what is the unborn?". We should always encourage individuals we are talking with to consider this question. A good way to approach this is to point out that if the unborn is *not* human, then no justification for abortion is necessary. But if the unborn *is* human, then no justification is adequate. This is therefore *the* pivotal question that must be answered. (Don't force this. If the person is concerned about women's health, poverty, overpopulation, etc., discuss their concerns. But there are ways, such as the Trotting out the Toddler method, which guide the conversation back to the humanity and value of the unborn. To learn how to focus your conversations on topic ask us about doing a Pro-Life Persuasion training for your community.)

7: GET EDUCATED: This does not mean picking up an encyclopedia and learning every abortion-related fact by tonight. But we must have knowledge about the subject we are speaking on. So pick up a book about abortion, learn popular pro-choice arguments, learn common flawed pro-life arguments, and learn the arguments on both sides that are relevant and accurate. Contact us about doing a training for your community or group. We are willing to come to you.

8. MEET PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE: One way of doing this is by using science and philosophy rather than religion to talk to people about abortion. The humanity of the unborn is a biological reality, and human value can be discussed in purely philosophical terms. It is often unnecessary and imprudent for *us* to bring religion into a pro-life conversation at all (although you'll find that the other person may accuse you of doing so, even if you have not). Certainly as these conversations go deeper, you may have an opportunity to share your journey or your faith in some way, but we want to be clear in not using religion as our logical argument. We want to appeal to truths that are as universally understandable and valid as possible. Science and philosophy are reliable sources for a discussion with just about anyone. Use them and the tips stated above to build rapport, and you will find that this often leads to wonderful and clear opportunities to share your journey.

9: HUMILITY: Be humble. This is the key to every conversation. Recognize that you yourself have been wrong before. Recognize that you THINK that this person is wrong in this situation. Now, let's look at this problem together and see if we can find a solution. We want to move every conversation from debate to dialogue. With this attitude we avoid combative conversation and allow for genuine intellectual and respectful discussion and growth. Be humble in everything you say and this will enrich your conversations.

10: FORGET EVERYTHING: If you are talking with a woman that has had an abortion, is thinking about having an abortion, is about to have an abortion, or has been raped, forget strategizing. At this point, it's not really about how much you know, but about how much you care. The person you are talking to is what is important right now. She is hurting. She is in pain. Ask her how she is doing. Ask if there is anything you can do to help. Talk with her and treat her like the infinitely valuable human being that she is. Show her that she is loved and that you are there for her. This will speak volumes more than any argument you could make.

Contact us for more tips and training opportunities in your local community!