

WHY I AM PRO-LIFE?

I am pro-life because of the signs of life. Some of the signs of life are a beating heart, a working brain, and the need for oxygen. Each of these are true of a baby in the womb. If these exist, then why is that baby not alive?

The first sign of life that makes me believe there is precious life in the womb is the beating heart. The heart starts to develop during the third week of pregnancy (<http://www.nrlc.org/abortion/firstmonths/>). By the end of the first trimester the heart is already beating in a normal rhythm (<https://www.womenshealth.gov/pregnancy/you-are-pregnant/stages-of-pregnancy.html>). A baby's heartbeat can now be heard (Ibid.). The heartbeat is the sound of blood pumping through the body. When a person dies, we check for a heartbeat. If there isn't one, we know that the person is dead. If no heartbeat signifies death, then why does a heartbeat signify anything less than life for a baby in the womb?

The second sign of life is the breathing process. Outside of the womb, we breathe by inhaling the oxygen in the air around us and exhaling the carbon dioxide. Babies in the womb cannot do that because they are immersed in amniotic fluid. The lungs are developed but not inflated. The mother breathes and provides oxygen for the baby. The oxygen goes to the baby through the umbilical cord and carbon dioxide is exhaled by the mother (<http://www.livestrong.com/article/27084-babies-breathe-womb/>). Breathing is the main sign of life. Some people believe that life begins with the baby's first breath—but the baby is already being sustained by oxygen!

For me, the most compelling sign of life that convinces me to be pro-life is the working brain. It also starts to develop in the womb during the fourth week

(<https://www.womenshealth.gov/pregnancy/you-are-pregnant/stages-of-pregnancy.html>.)

Like the heart, it is fully working by the end of the first trimester (Ibid.). Brain waves can be detected at six weeks. The baby can also memorize sounds

(<http://www.today.com/parents/unborn-babies-are-hearing-you-loud-clear-8C11005474>). For example, when my mom was pregnant with me, my dad read to me all the time. When I was born, and the nurse was taking me away to wrap me up, my dad said my name. I immediately turned and looked right at him. I had memorized his voice; I was aware of what was happening outside the womb. How is that not a sign of life?

These signs of life are why I am pro-life. They are why I believe there is life in the womb, and why I choose life. The heartbeat...oxygen...recognizing my dad's voice...these are why I am pro-life.