



Stanford University: Essay 2

"Tell us something that is meaningful to you and why. (100 to 250 words)"

"Who thinks that *Roe v. Wade* is more important to U.S. History than the Olive Branch Petition?"

My classmates' eyes immediately dart toward me. Everyone in the room knows I'm the liberal who's going to advocate for the case's importance to history. Although I'm the only person in the room who holds such beliefs, I'm determined to advocate for *Wade* – a decision that secured fundamental rights for women and forever changed the way the Constitution would be interpreted. In the minds of my classmates, the majority of whom spend their Sunday mornings in the aisles of the Franklin Community Church of Christ, this is an attack on their sense of morality. I've been told directly it's the case that legalized the murdering of babies and funneled hard-earned American dollars into abortion clinics. So, I have a choice: either advocate for a case that represents my deeply held values or stay silent in the face of peers who fundamentally disagree with me. I decide on the former.

Whether in front of a crowd of thousands like many elected officials or in an intimate classroom setting, I've seen people compromise their own deeply-held values to appease their audience. I decided that it doesn't matter whether I win or lose an argument in most instances; what really matters is advocating for something I truly believe in, growing in my beliefs, and learning from those different than myself. I'm always true to the ideals that matter to me: truth, justice, equity, progressivism, knowledge.