

Title: Unpacking the Opinions: A Deep Dive into Reddit's Communities on Pro-Life vs Pro-Choice. (541 words)

Research Question:

1. What are the public's views toward the pro-life and pro-choice matters?
2. What are the most common and prominent topics mentioned in the comments on these topics?

Background:

Pro-life and pro-choice are two opposed political and philosophical perspectives on abortion. Pro-life advocates believe that abortion should be prohibited and that the fetus has a right to life from conception. Pro-choice supporter, on the other hand, believe that they have the right to make decisions about their own bodies, including whether to have an abortion. The public's feelings about these two issues are worth investigating because they represent broader social, cultural, and political trends and ideals. Furthermore, examining public sentiment on pro-life and pro-choice topics might assist us in better understanding the underlying beliefs and values that determine attitudes toward reproductive rights and women's health. Understanding the motivations and reasons behind public emotion on pro-life and pro-choice issues can also help bridge gaps and develop better empathy and understanding.

Sarah C. M. Roberts (2017) proposes a public health approach centered on expanding access to complete reproductive health care, such as contraception, abortion services, and post-abortion care. It promotes evidence-based, patient-centered care and highlights the importance of collaboration among public health officials, health care providers, and community organizations [1]. *Beth Reingold (2020)* on the other hand, provides a thorough examination of the political and social elements that impact anti-abortion policymaking, such as the influence of conservative religious groups, ideological division, and partisan politics [2]. *Lauren K. Hunt (2022)* conducted an examination on the content of #YouKnowMe posts on social media platforms such as Twitter and Instagram using a qualitative analytical approach. It emphasizes themes connected to abortion experiences, such as the difficulties in obtaining safe and legal abortion services, the emotional and psychological toll of the experience, and the need of support from family, friends, and healthcare practitioners [3].

Data:

The data for this study will be taken from two different subreddits: r/prochoice and r/prolife. From January 2022 until the present, the top ten posts from each subreddit will be identified and collected using the Python Reddit API Wrapper (PRAW) package based on their upvotes and relevant comments. 'Prolife,' 'Prochoice,' 'Abortion,' and 'Anti-Abortion' are case insensitive terms that would be used to search for posts and comments in these subreddits. To assure equality, a total of 1000 most upvoted comments, 500 from r/prochoice and 500 from r/prolife, would be retrieved. Additional fields, such as Post URL, Post Author, Post Upvotes, Comment Author, Comment Upvotes, and so on, would be selected along with Comments.

Method:

The comments from subreddit posts will be examined for general sentiment (categorized as Positive, Negative, and Neutral sentiments) as well as significant subjects (known as topic modeling). The Python module Valence Aware Dictionary and sEntiment Reasoner (VADER) will be used for sentiment analysis of the data. The Latent Semantic Analysis (LSA) approach will be utilized in Python for topic modeling. The posts and comments will also be analyzed using Natural Language Toolkit Library and a Word Cloud in Python to discover the most frequently used terms and phrases across both communities. These ideas would aid in comparing the two communities.

References:

- [1] Sarah C. M. Roberts, Liza Fuentes, Nancy F. Berglas, and Amanda J. Dennis. A 21st-Century Public Health Approach to Abortion. Retrieved from Am J Public Health. 2017 December; <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5678382/>
- [2] Beth Reingold, Rebecca J. Kreitzer, and Michele L. Swers. Anti-abortion Policymaking and Women's Representation. Retrieved March 4, 2020, from <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1065912920903381>
- [3] Lauren K. Hunt, Carly M. Goldstein, Camille L. Garnsey, Katherine W. Bogen and Lindsay M. Orchowski. Examining Public Sentiment Surrounding Abortion: A Qualitative Analysis of #YouKnowMe. Retrieved January 20, 2022, from <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/23293691.2021.2016161>
- [4] Linda J Beckman, Abortion in the United States: The continuing controversy. Retrieved February 1, 2017, from <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0959353516685345>