Austin Gray

Philosophy 303

Assignment 29

To better understand Thompsons views it helps to understand the time in which she was writing and who/what she is defending abortion form. *A Defense of Abortion* was released in the Fall 1971 Volume of *Philosophy & Public Affairs* putting it out only a few short years before the case Roe v Wade (1973) that sets the tone for abortion on the United States. At the time of release the debate on abortion was very contentious and had many people on either side of the line of whether abortion is morally acceptable or not. The leading argument against abortion which held that abortion is an infringement on the fetus’ right to life and thus is not morally permissible. Thompson gave this argument the benefit of the doubt on many of its premises such as an embryo being a human and having the rights as one. Thompson did this as to not get tied into the details of that argument because she saw that the one thing lacking from the leading argument against abortion was and that was it did not consider the mother’s property right to her own body, and how she may transfer that to the fetus.