

Reading Questions: Mary Anne Warren, "On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion"

1. In paragraph #1 of her article, what does Mary Anne Warren believe it is possible to show?
2. What does Warren identify as the traditional antiabortion argument (paragraph #2)?
3. Warren identifies the following as common arguments for abortion: "that restricting access to abortion has tragic side effects" and "that to deny a woman access to abortion is to deprive her of her right to control her own body." Why do these arguments "fail to refute or even weaken the traditional antiabortion argument" (paragraph #3)?
4. What is the fundamental question for abortion?
5. What are the two stages of Warren's argument (See paragraphs 8 and 9)?
6. What are the two ways of defining 'human' (paragraphs 23-24).
7. What traits are central to personhood (paragraph 30)?
8. Does Warren think that the fetus qualify as a person according to this understanding of personhood? What else doesn't qualify as a person according to this understanding?
9. What is the most troubling objection to her argument (paragraph #46)?