

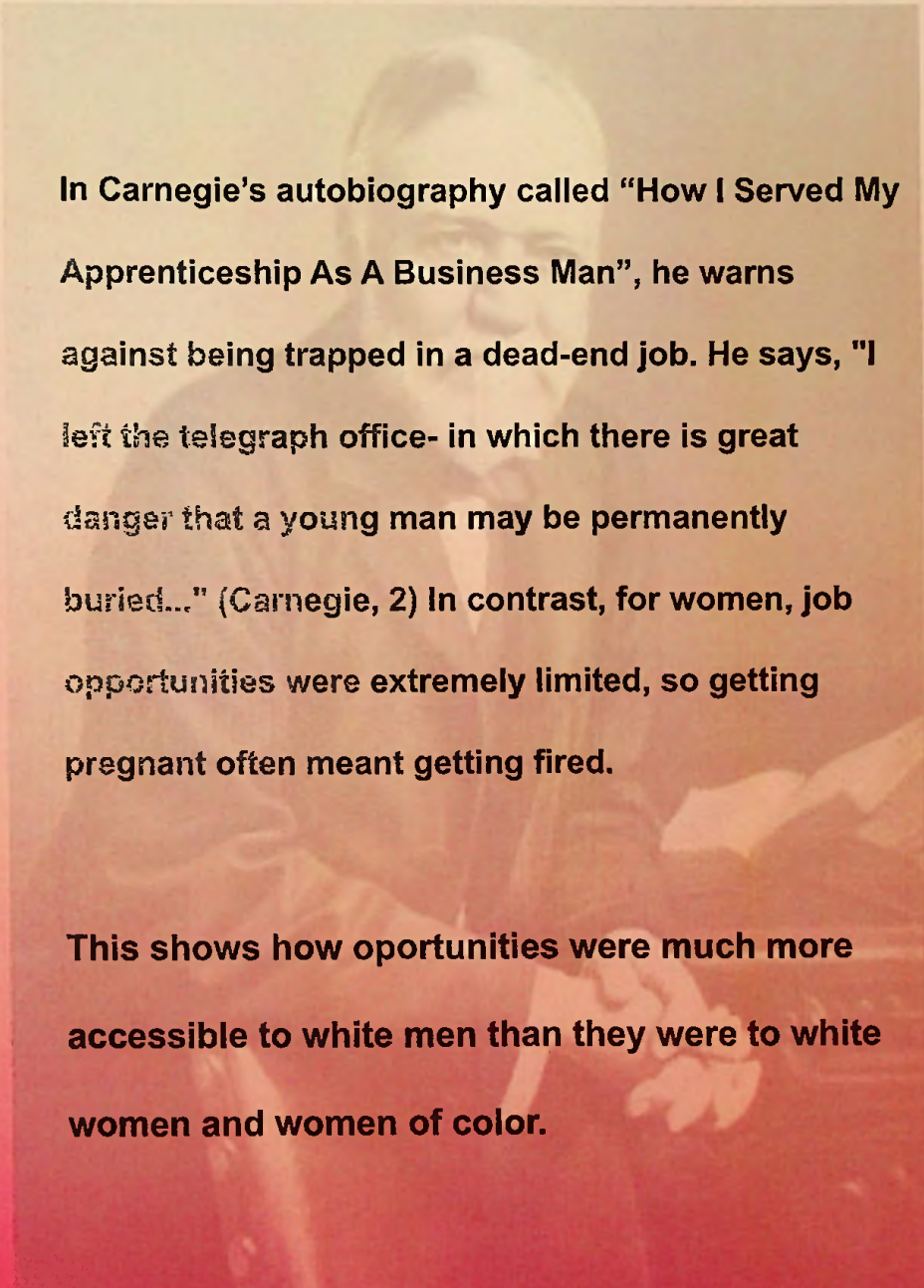
**Reproductive Rights:
Justice for Women**



Introduction

Women have been fighting to maintain their rights for decades. They have never been seen as equals in society, and even less so for women of color. Reproductive justice as a whole and reproductive rights specifically are constantly debated throughout the nation. It's interesting how popular of a topic a woman's right to her reproductive health and body is compared to the nation's poor and hungry. This is classic misogyny. Women made it one step closer to gaining complete control of their reproductive freedom with Roe vs. Wade, the landmark Supreme Court decision that established a woman's legal right to an abortion. The late Supreme Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, fought tirelessly with the support of millions of women to keep that decision from being overturned.

The seven cultural products that I have chosen to include establish the fact that women have less rights than men and women of color have even less rights. Women had little to no rights in 1867 during Ragged Dick's time, women of color were given little access to resources in 1937 as shown in "Breadline", women were told to be happy with the little rights they had during 1963 in "The Feminine Mystique", women started to speak up about the discrimination in 1977 as shown in "Spotlight: National Women's Conference of 1977", debates were started to discuss the legality of letting a woman decide what to do with her own body in 1989, women continued to organize marches and movements to gain their much-deserved rights as discussed in a podcast in 2020, and finally a conservative Supreme Court justice was confirmed for appointment to the Supreme Court that could alter, and maybe even erase, all the progress that women have made in history forever.



In Carnegie's autobiography called "How I Served My Apprenticeship As A Business Man", he warns against being trapped in a dead-end job. He says, "I left the telegraph office- in which there is great danger that a young man may be permanently buried..." (Carnegie, 2) In contrast, for women, job opportunities were extremely limited, so getting pregnant often meant getting fired.

This shows how opportunities were much more accessible to white men than they were to white women and women of color.



The picture labeled *Breadline during the Louisville flood* shows a billboard of a white family with the tagline "World's Highest Standard of Living" (Bourke-White). There is a long line in front of the billboard with only Black men and women. The direct contrast is evidence of the reality of life in America where men and women of color have much less opportunity than white families. I'm including this image to showcase the privilege that white people have over people of color. It's clear that it's harder for people of color to obtain necessities because of their race. Because of this, women of color have less access to reproductive health care and the necessary information needed regarding their bodies. Black women are also at the highest risk to die during childbirth due to lack of prenatal healthcare.

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THE FEMININE MYSTIQUE

BETTY FRIEDAN

I'm including the novel *The Feminine Mystique* because the author talks about how women were considered as housewives and in that time women had babies and took care of their husbands/households. There was little to no option to take birth control or terminate any unwanted pregnancies because wives and the fetuses were the husband's property. Friedan writes this about the 50's housewife: "she was afraid to ask even of herself the silent question--"Is this all?" (Friedan, 1) Many women wanted to pursue careers and wait to have children or choose to not have any at all. But culturally, women were expected to settle down, have 2.5 kids, and be happy about it.

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This image found in American Memory shows women of all races marching for what they believed in because their needs were not being met. *Spotlight: National Women's Conference of 1977* shows the passion that was put into forming and participating in a women's conference that was solely for women. Women have had to fight for their rights since the beginning of time and the protests, conferences, and marches have exhibited their justified, beautiful rebellious nature and their power in numbers. It was time to create opportunities for women to access medical care and information rather than wait for them to appear.

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I'm including "*FACE OFF*" SUPREME COURT RULING ON ABORTION, 25 JULY 1989, from American Memory, because it's an extremely important discussion between Senator Edward M. "Ted" Kennedy of Massachusetts and Senator Alan K. "Al" Simpson of Wyoming who debate a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that gives states the right to determine the legality of abortion, and the potential impact on the right of women to make decisions on abortion.

Webster v. Reproductive Health Services, was a United States Supreme Court decision on upholding a Missouri law that imposed restrictions on the use of state funds, facilities, and employees in performing, assisting with, or counseling an abortions. The Supreme Court in *Webster* allowed for states to legislate in an aspect that had previously been thought to be forbidden under *Roe v. Wade* (1973). It provided new restrictions for women when trying to access information or trying to seek a procedure that is, as Senator Alan Simpson put, "a purely private decision that should be discussed between a woman and her doctor, not the United States government." (Simpson)

"FACE OFF" SUPREME COURT RULING ON ABORTION, 25 JULY 1989



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I'm including this podcast called *100 Years Later: Complicated history of the Women's Suffrage Movement* to illustrate the ties between women's rights overall and women's reproductive rights specifically. Women were fighting for their rights as equals to men which included their right to reproductive health services including abortion. Even so, the suffrage movement claims to be a movement for all women, but the guests in the podcast told listeners that "Black women were consistently and intentionally suppressed." (Haines, Tetrault) It's evident that women of color had even less access to opportunity and couldn't even count on their fellow women to include them equally in the fight.

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I'm including this article called "Amy Coney-Barrett: what will she mean for women's rights?" from *The Guardian* because it ties together the decades long women's right movement with the confirmation of a supreme justice who is against many of the ideas that the women's rights movement stand for. She plans to take away a woman's right to have control over her own body. The confirmation process is an existential threat to *Roe v Wade*. This law allows women to maintain control of their own bodies. According to Villareal, "Trump has also signaled he wants justices who will vote to dismantle the Affordable Care Act, which requires most healthcare plans to cover contraception with no out-of-pocket cost." (Villareal) He appointed Amy Coney-Barrett to put his plans in motion because she is a pro-life and conservative, and against abortion and free and easily accessible contraception.

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How to get involved

1. Join a local or national organization!

Advocates For Youth is a powerful organization that organizes reproductive justice campaigns with the help of young women across the nation and provides helpful information and resources on their website. Their belief is that access to reproductive health care is non-negotiable and must include both family planning and abortion care.

2. Start a campaign!

- 1 in 3 campaign: A grassroots movement to start a new conversation about abortion—telling our stories, on our own terms
- The Future is Young Womxn of Color: Young womxn of color leading the fight to ensure reproductive freedom for all people
- The Condom Collective: Condom Collective members care about access to quality condoms on their campuses

3. Write letters!

Create and send letters to your state representatives regarding reproductive justice. No amount of effort is too small!

<https://advocatesforyouth.org/issue/honest-sex-education/>

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Climate Change
is REAL
Trump is HOAX!

If you're needed
in situations of
injustice you can
even be the job
of a...

I WILL
FIGHT
FOR MY
BODY

