

Paper #5 is less sophisticated in word choice and syntax, yet it is a passing paper. The writer expresses her own opinion honestly and offers specific support for the opinion she holds. Note lines 14-18 and 22-28. There are very few problems of mechanics. The thesis (lines 9-11) is clear, and it directly addresses the question.

Paper #5:

1 I do not intend to take a stand on whether abortion is
2 morally right or wrong, but I believe abortion should be legal
3 so that a woman with an unwanted pregnancy will have an
4 option. A woman has the right to protect her physical health
5 and emotional state of mind by terminating a pregnancy if it
6 is unwanted. Furthermore, a woman has the right to obtain an
7 abortion to prevent anguish and frustration due to having a
8 child with a severe birth defect. To restrict a woman from
9 obtaining an abortion is to violate this right. Abortion
10 should be legal for the woman who decides it is necessary not
11 to carry a baby to full term due to various circumstances.
12

13 One circumstance would be a pregnant woman with medical
14 complications. If a woman with a cardiac condition discovers
15 she is pregnant, she may decide to abort the fetus to protect
16 her own life. Since the fetus has a potential life whereas
17 the woman has an actual life, the right to life should go to
18 the woman. If abortion were not legal then the woman would
19 have few options available regarding her physical health.
20

21 There are circumstances such as rape that prevent us from
22 being able to control what happens to us. I know of a young
23 woman who is married and has a young child. She decided to
24 take her child and leave her husband, because he beat her up.
25 Before this woman could leave her husband, he forced himself
26 on her and, as a result, she became pregnant. Instead of
27 trying to start a new life with a small child and an unwanted
28 baby, she decided on an abortion. Even though this woman was
29 unable to control these circumstances, abortion helped to
30 rectify her problem.
31

32 Abortion can also be used to terminate a pregnancy where
33 the fetus is genetically defective. A doctor can determine
34 accurately the possibility of a fetus being born with a severe
35 birth defect. For example, Down's Syndrome and Tay-Sachs
36 disease are severe birth defects that can be detected in the
37 fetus through a process called amniocentesis. A woman who
38 discovers she is carrying a child with a birth defect may
39 decide to obtain an abortion. Consider the mental anguish and
40 the financial strain of having to care for a retarded child.
41 Abortion can prevent the birth of a child with a severe birth
42 defect thus spare the parent of such grief.
43

