Speaking and Listening – Level 10

Sample 2 Oral presentation: Single women should have access to IVF

STUDENT I stand before you today to bring us together about the road of independence for a single woman.

Countless of single woman seek for happiness as they yearn to be a single mother. However, good things do not come easily; the road is lined with pitfalls. Imagine walking on a road full of rejection, judgements and stereotypical ideologies. How would you solve the problem? This brings us to the issue: Should IVF be available to single woman? … In which has received tremendous rejection over the past few years.

In-vitro fertilisation is the procedure in which an egg is fertilised by sperm outside the body. Despite the outlaw of legal obstacles for being a single parent in 2010, single woman still encounter rejection simply by taking a different path to motherhood. Those who oppose argue that children should grow up with both a mother and father as they will perform best in this environment. However, I heartily believe that the best environment for a child is dependent on how they are cared for. Therefore, opening the door to IVF for single woman will educate us on people’s decision-making to understand and move many obstacles on the road to surpass the pitfalls.

Firstly, we all know that aging equals low rate of fertility. In a woman’s lifespan, she is born with all the eggs that she is going to carry. As she grows older, her eggs are also impacted, which affects her ability to conceive. Can you believe that there’s only a 5% chance of conceiving when she is of age 40? It is obvious that mid-aged single woman are feeling pressured, as they have no partner. Would you really want to wait for the right one or stress about finding Mr Right at this age? Take [name redacted], for example. She is a single woman with no child that has reached the point where she is running out of time. She makes the big decision to take that step alone, knowing that a partner may come later, as she’s desperate due to a low rate of fertility.

According to a health care professional, having a child expands the parameters of what love looks like. Everyone deserves to love and be loved. So why is it an issue for single woman to experience this through having a child?

Furthermore, desiring to be a parent as a single woman that is part of the LGBTIQ community through IVF is shouting to be heard. Allowing single woman of the LGBTIQ community to have a child through IVF not only responds to their wishes but also depicts the development and progress of our sociopolitical environment. However, society holds the idea that it is virtuous for a child to grow up with both a mother and father, as they do best in this environment. If this is true, then tell me why majority of children raised by both parents drink underage, do drugs and participate in illegal conflict. Is this what ‘doing best’ means?

According to research by New York University students, science shows that children raised by two same-gender parents do as well on average as children raised by two different-gender parents, which clearly depicts that regardless of gender, children can nevertheless do their best if they receive good and healthy parenting. Therefore, setting stereotypes free will allow single woman of the LGBTIQ community to conceive a child through IVF, accomplishing their desires.

Finally, don’t misjudge an asexual’s wants or needs. Although asexuals lack sexual attraction to others, the longing of having a family for some is without a doubt. Single asexual woman can experience romantic attraction and develop close bonds with their partner. However, finding a partner, either a compatible asexual or someone that understands, may be difficult. Nonetheless, as suggested by New York University students, one really good parent is better than two not-so-good ones. Allowing IVF to be available to single woman through the use of sperm donors reassures them that they can become a parent without feeling pressured or forced to participate in sexual activities. How would you feel if you were forced to participate in something you strongly disagree on? Hence, IVF should be accessible to single woman.

We need to smooth the road to IVF for single woman. Imagine if you’re passionate about conceiving a child and is interested in going through IVF. However, simply because you do not have a partner and because you’re either an older woman, a single woman or an asexual woman, you are not permitted to access IVF and you will never be able to have a child of your own. How would you feel? Therefore, it is our responsibility as Australians to educate those close-minded people to re-evaluate and challenge … and challenge those in authority, like the government and medical professionals, to take further action to free the air of stereotypes.

The availability of IVF for single woman will grant them their miracle. Having a child to a mother is like a rare diamond that was destined to be theirs. So why not let them discover this? It is a beautiful creation.

Thank you for listening.

(APPLAUSE)