



Welcome to the Civic Lab!

This resource page includes conversation starters and materials for exploring reproductive justice.

Conversation Questions

“Reproductive justice means the human right to control our sexuality, our gender, our work, and our reproduction. That right can only be achieved when all women and girls have the complete economic, social, and political power and resources to make healthy decisions about our bodies, our families, and our communities in all areas of our life.” – from *In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda*, www.blackrj.org

1. Do you agree with this quote? Why or why not?
2. How is reproductive justice connected to other social issues such as poverty, racism, or homophobia?
3. What can you do to promote reproductive justice?
4. Family question: Should new parents be able to take time off from their jobs to care for their new babies?

Key Definitions

These definitions are from the *Merriam-Webster's Learner's Dictionary*:

- *Consent* – verb, to give permission for something to happen or be done
- *Sexual assault* – noun, illegal sexual contact that usually involves force upon a person without consent or is inflicted upon a person who is incapable of giving consent (as because of age or physical or mental incapacity) or who places the assailant (as a doctor) in a position of trust or authority

Core Resources

These items were selected by our librarians as core resources for the Civic Lab.

For adults:

- *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood
- *The Means of Reproduction: Sex, Power, and the Future of the World* by Michelle Goldberg



The Civic Lab at Skokie Public Library offers information and thought-provoking activities to support dialogue and engagement on issues that affect our community.

For young adults:

- *We Should All Be Feminists* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- *Exit, Pursued by a Bear* by E.K. Johnston

For children and families:

- *Sex is a Funny Word* by Cory Silverberg and Fiona Smyth
- *My Body Belongs to Me: A Book About Body Safety* by Jill Starishevsky

Additional Resources

These library materials are excellent choices for further exploration.

For adults:

- *Woman Rebel: The Margaret Sanger Story* by Peter Bagge
- *Missoula: Rape and the Justice System in a College Town* by Jon Krakauer
- *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty* by Dorothy Roberts
- *All the Single Ladies: Unmarried Women and the Rise of an Independent Nation* by Rebecca Traister

For young adults:

- *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson
- *We Believe You: Survivors of Campus Sexual Assault Speak Out* by Annie E. Clark and Andrea L. Pino
- *The Pregnancy Project: A Memoir* by Gaby Rodriguez

For children and families:

- *The Baby Tree* by Sophie Blackall
- *It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health* by Robie H. Harris
- *My Body Belongs to Me! From My Head to My Toes* by ProFamilia
- *What Makes a Baby: A Book for Every Kind of Family and Every Kind of Kid* by Cory Silverberg