



S.L.E.D.

The 4-Point Answer Every Pro-Lifer Should Know

Changing lives with clarity and compassion!

The S.L.E.D. test is a straightforward and clear method to demonstrate that unborn babies are human beings who deserve the same rights as anyone else. Created by philosopher Stephen Schwarz, it addresses common pro-abortion arguments by highlighting the four key differences between born and unborn humans: Size, Level of Development, Environment, and Degree of Dependency (SLED).

These differences are real—but none of them make someone less human. The S.L.E.D. test keeps the conversation respectful, logical, and easy to understand, helping people think clearly about the value of every human life.

SIZE

"Small doesn't mean less human."

An unborn child is obviously much smaller than a newborn, but so is a newborn when compared to a full-grown adult. If size determines value, then taller, heavier people would be considered more important than shorter or lighter ones. That's clearly not true. A person's worth isn't based on their size. From the tiniest embryo to the tallest athlete, each person is equally human.

LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT

"Being less developed doesn't make you less valuable."

Unborn babies haven't developed many of the abilities that born people possess—such as reasoning, talking, or walking. However, the same can be said for newborns and even toddlers. None of us were fully developed at birth; we continue to develop mentally, physically, and emotionally throughout our lives. If development doesn't determine value after birth, it shouldn't before birth either.

ENVIRONMENT

"Where you are doesn't change what you are."

The only difference between a baby a few minutes before birth and one a few minutes after is location. One is inside the womb, and one is outside. However, location doesn't affect personhood. A person doesn't stop being human because they move from one room to another—or from the womb to the world. Changing locations doesn't alter human value.

DEGREE OF DEPENDENCY

"Needing help doesn't disqualify you from being human."

Unborn babies entirely depend on their mothers for survival, but so do newborns. So do people on ventilators, those who need insulin, and the elderly. Being dependent doesn't make someone less human—it simply means they need help. In fact, the most dependent individuals are often the ones most deserving of our protection.

The S.L.E.D. test helps cut through confusion by showing that the differences between the unborn and the born are real, but not morally significant. None of these differences justify taking an innocent human life. **Every human being, no matter how small, underdeveloped, hidden, or dependent, is valuable simply because they are human and made in the image of God.**

"A person's a person, no matter how small." -Dr. Geuss