

MIKE

Keep, you have thirty seconds to cross-examine.

BEGIN

HEIDI

You say that progress is an illusion, but here we are debating. Don't you agree that this is progress?

THURSDAY

That's just one example of progress. There are many other issues where we've actually gone backwards. I mean, it's funny because I actually have fewer rights than you had when you were my age. Since I was born, there have been over two hundred laws that have rolled back women's reproductive rights. That is not progress!

HEIDI

Yes but our Constitution was designed to evolve and change. So why don't we protect those rights by passing an amendment—

THURSDAY

Amendments take too long! We've been trying to pass an Equal Rights Amendment for over one hundred years!

HEIDI

We're one state away. I'm not ready to give up yet—

THURSDAY

How many amendments have been passed in your lifetime?

HEIDI

Uh. One, I think. The 27th Amendment.

THURSDAY

Yeah and that took two hundred and thirty years to pass. I don't think you've got another hundred and thirty years in you, Heidi.

*(Mike rings the bell.)*

I rest my case.

END

MIKE

Keep, you have one minute for rebuttal.

HEIDI

Judges. I agree that we have moved backwards on some issues, but my opponent is confusing illusion with the natural ebbs and flows of progress. If we throw out this document, we throw out the actual progress that the generations before us fought so hard to achieve. If we abolish the Constitution tomorrow, here's what would happen: Same-sex marriage would be illegal in fourteen states. Abortion would be illegal in thirty states. Segregation would technically be legal in thirty-two states. The only thing holding us together right now as a country is a collective faith in this document. Yes, we might interpret it differently, but without it we risk complete collapse.

Judges, Abraham Lincoln said we should not overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow the men who abuse it. Thank you.

MIKE

Abolish, you have thirty seconds to cross-examine.