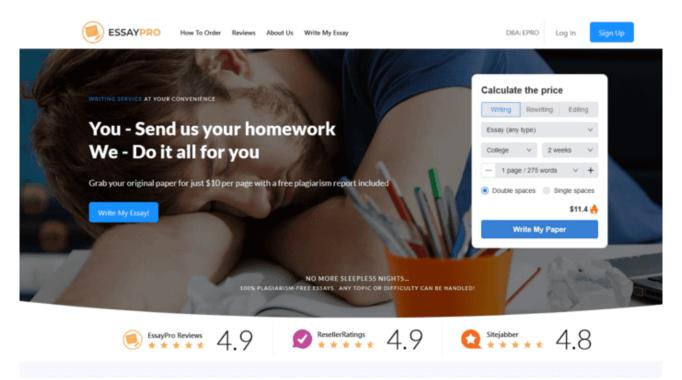
## **Shifting the Medical Gaze: Towards a Feminist Ethic of Childbirth**



ENTER HERE => https://bit.ly/abcdessay108

Shifting the Medical Gaze: Towards a Feminist Ethic of Childbirth
The term "reproductive rights" has become synonymous with abortion rights, birth control access, and issues surrounding reproductive technologies, yet the struggle for a woman's right to choose when and how to become pregnant often overshadows a woman's right to choose where and how to give birth. The lack of feminist discourse and activism surrounding issues of childbirth may attest to the hegemony in the modern American birth ritual of increasing medical intervention from obstetricians in hospital settings. There are currently several movements to challenge this dominant birth modelprepared childbirth advocates offer education classes and natural childbirth advocates lobby for the rights of midwives and home birthsbut I refrain from giving either of these movements a feminist label because neither are invested in challenging prevailing gender ideology or the equation of woman with motherhood. This paper will argue that a feminist discourse of childbirth is necessary by using a Foucauldian analysis to chart the current web of power and knowledge in the American hospital delivery room and how it works to deny agency to
women in labor, alienating them from their experience. Recognizing that power and

knowledge operate on a myriad of levels and tactics, including counter-tactics, I will not <a href="limit">limit</a> my focus to the dominant discourse of medical experts, but also explore what I call counter discourses of childbirth, particularly from the prepared childbirth and natural childbirth advocates. Within this discussion, I hope to offer suggestions on a feminist ethic of childbirth that reaffirms women's autonomy during labor, but does not limit them to prevailing codes o...

... middle of paper ...

...

Berkley: University of California Press, 1997. 132-58.

Michie, Helena and Naomi R. Cahn. Confinements: Fertility and Infertility in

Contemporary Culture. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1997.

Rothman, Barbara Katz. In Labor: Women and Power in the Birthplace. New York:

W.W. Norton and Co., 1982.

Sawicki, Jana. "Disciplining Mothers: Feminism and the New Reproductive

Technologies." Feminist Theory and the Body: A Reader. Janet Price and

Margrit Shildrick, eds. New York: Routledge, 1999. 190-202.

Wertz, Richard W. and Dorothy C. Wertz. Lying-In: A History of Childbirth in America.

Expanded Edition. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989.

Young, Iris Marion. "Pregnant Embodiment: Subjectivity and Alienation." Throwing

Like a Girl and Other Essays in Feminist Philosophy and Social Theory.

Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1990.

## Other Arcticles:

- The Republic By Plato
- Roll Of Thunder, Hear My Cry By Mildred D. Taylor Is A Very Powerful
- Untraceable s On Global Warming

- Study On Project Performance Management Management
- Writing Up A Cultural Case Study
- Relevant Skills For A Resume
- Franchise Research Papers
- The Great Comedy In The Play The Importance Of Being Earnest By Oscar Wilde
- How To Refine Tai Lin Radio Service Ltd To The Market Leader Position In The Electrical Appliances Retail Industry
- Metropolitan Museum Essay
- Foundation Of Rehabilitation Of Counseling
- Management Of Field Construction Projects
- Essay On Advantages And Disadvantages Of Modern Gadgets