My son has Down syndrome. I didn’t know about it before he was born. So the question of whether he SHOULD have been born was never at issue.

Today, parents of children with Down syndrome are protesting mandatory pre-natal screening because after screening, parents usually choose not to allow the child with Downs to be born. My son Greg has joined their protest.

Greg is what they call “high functioning.” He can read and write and has ambitions to have a career and a family of his own. Pursuing his career ambitions, he took community college classes in child care and in human development. It was in community college that he learned about abortion. The human development text explained about genetic “abnormalities” and the choice to terminate a pregnancy to prevent the birth of a child with Down syndrome. Greg was horrified.

The professor assigned a short paper on “genetic engineering.” Here is some of what Greg wrote:

Human Development FHS 1500
Ch.4 Abortion

Abortion is when a woman gets pregnant then she decides not to have the birth. There are several reasons that women decide not to have the births. It can be they are not happy about how the baby turns out or it might have something wrong with the baby or they are different than them. Therefore, they do not want the baby when it gets out of the womb.

My views on abortion are I think it is sick idea. That is how we Americans stereotype other people.

That reminds me of a movie named Shrek. When the movie started Shrek was an Ogre. He did not want anyone around him and he pushed people away from him. The whole movie is based on that idea. In the second movie (Shrek II) Shrek and Fiona had a dark secret that she was an Ogre as well. So they actually find the love again.
I think a human being should have a chance to live on this planet earth. Therefore, we can have a more exciting life. I think we should stop the abortions from happening and accept the differences we have. That also reminds me on the African Americans’ story about how they were treated. It is important to have differences in the worlds.

I will definitely not advise abortion to anyone because at least we should celebrate the differences in the world. In addition, we should accept the people that are different from us.

Today Greg has achieved his first career goal—earning the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, the initial qualification to work in a preschool. And even better, last May he started work as a pre-school aide. He loves coming up with creative art projects for his three-year-olds and struggles, as any parent would, in getting them to nap quietly. He is now interested in finding a girl friend who would become his wife—so he, like Shrek, can have HIS “chance to live on this planet earth.”