

# Breed or Die: Inside Pronatalism

Malcolm and Simone Collins say they want people to have more babies. But which people?

By Harry Shukman & Patrik Hermansson | Published Oct. 17, 2024



*Find in the text, and in that particular order, the words corresponding to the following definitions.*

1. Absorbent material wrapped around a baby's bottom and between its legs: **diapers**
2. A mark or series of signs left behind by the passage of someone or something: **trail**
3. Complain or protest strongly and persistently about: **rail**
4. Surround and have or hold within: **encompass**

*Rephrase in your own words one of the following sentences, paying particular attention to the words underlined.*

5. "They toy with controversial ideas to nudge birth rates in an upward direction" (1.21):  
**They play with controversial ideas to try and convince people to have more babies.**
6. "Low-fertility societies are staring down the barrel":  
**Societies in which the birth rate is low are in danger.**

*Right or wrong? Justify your answer.*

7. Malcolm and Simone Collins do not question equality between genders.  
**Wrong. In April 2024, they published a podcast entitled: "Would Taking Away Women's Right to Own Property Solve the Fertility Crisis?"**
8. Malcolm wants to use reason to persuade the American population to have more babies.  
**Wrong. "With IQ declining as much as it is," Malcolm said, "I'm never going to convince the general population to fix that problem."**
9. According to the pronatalist Collinses, the more babies are born, the better for the civilization.  
**Wrong. The dumb ones — are going to be more and more of the general population as time goes on. And so they will be electing and building bureaucracies that make it harder and harder for the geniuses to do their jobs.**
10. The Collinses claim financially independent women will not increase the birth rate.  
**Right. "Would Taking Away Women's Right to Own Property Solve the Fertility Crisis?" In the video, the fast-talking couple referred to a study that found women who win the lottery tend to leave their husbands, while men who hit the jackpot stay with their wives.**
11. The data and figures Malcolm Collins is quoting to support the view IQ is falling are wrong.  
**Wrong. The interpretation of the data is wrong (last paragraph).**

*Answer the following questions.*

12. Quote one social and one political argument suggesting Malcolm Collins is on the right side of the political spectrum.  
**Woke mind virus + opposition to DEI; criticising "bureaucracy" (in favour of laissez-faire).**
13. Define "dysgenics" in simple terms.  
**The study of the accumulation and perpetuation of defective genes and traits in a population.**
14. What would the Collinses' dream world for the future be?  
**A world in which the elite has a lot of babies whose genes are checked and controlled.**
15. Quote one strategy Malcolm Collins might have on his mind to make sure the future of society is not "imperilled".  
**"These people — the dumb ones — are going to be more and more of the general population as time goes on. And so they will be electing and building bureaucracies that make it harder and harder for the geniuses to do their jobs." > he might want to prevent some parts of the population from voting (something his wife has been advocating ie "Simone Collins espouses a philosophy in which voting rights would be linked to people's contributions to society" Guardian)**

16. Written expression

*Briefly answer and discuss the following subject.*

Parents should be able to choose the features of their children.

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Technically and medically possible.</li><li>• Create a "perfect" baby; give it the best chances to succeed in life.</li><li>• Remove genetic diseases (Alzheimer's, Huntington's disease, Spinal Muscular Atrophy), inherited medical conditions (obesity, anemia, diabetes, cancer).</li><li>• Better to be able to choose than to abort.</li><li>• Prevent next generation from getting characteristics or diseases.</li><li>• Increase human lifespan up to 30 years.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Only the rich can afford it; two-tier society. Superiority of a race. Non-designer babies: risk of missing job opportunities (second-class citizens).</li><li>• Lack of individuality; uniformity.</li><li>• Interfere with nature.</li><li>• Unbalance: too many men or women.</li><li>• Other children in the family: affected by parents' decision. Feel less loved because less perfect.</li><li>• Not 100% safe; embryo could be accidentally terminated.</li></ul>