Summarize the article:

Don Marquis’s article “Why Abortion is Immoral” is based primarily on the argument that abortion is the act of killing. Marquis considers the act of killing immoral due to the victim’s loss of potential life. The potential life can include plans, activities and enjoyments that if the fetus were not aborted may have experienced. Marquis believes the potentiality claim is vindicated by a human’s instinctive response to the killing of other humans and by the account that there is no other reason for this emotional response.

Marquis credits the wrongful killing and loss of potentiality argument as a superior resolution to the ethics of the abortion dispute. Marquis extinguishes any objective argument, such as defining human beings, speciesism and defining a fetus in the article. Marquis does bring up questions throughout enabling the reader to formulate their own opinions including why it is wrong to kill others and why it is wrong to kill those in severe pain that cannot be relieved.

Identify the key ethical issues in the article:

The key ethical issues described in Marquis article is the morality of abortion, the killing of others and the theory of potentiality. Marquis’s article identifies a common link between all of these ethical issues. In the article the morality of abortion is defined as the killing of a living human, not to be defined as a living human being because then objections could be made. The killing of the living human is then tied to the loss of potentiality, which
Marquis defined for this article as not needing value or appreciation for the loss. The loss of potentiality has a great effect on the victim (the fetus) and several others who are connected (mother, father, doctor etc.) issuing a greater loss. Combining the ethical issues of the immorality of killing and the effect of the potential loss gives the ethical issue of immoral abortion an effective argument.

Present and evaluate the author’s argument:

Marquis discusses why abortion is immoral developing his argument on the belief that killing is wrong because of the loss of the victim’s potentiality. Marquis then needs to establish that having an abortion is indeed killing a living human, why killing another is considered wrong and why killing before birth is equal to killing after birth. Marquis also needs to dispute the argument of the fetus not being a human being based upon level of consciousness, behaving in a rational manner, euthanasia, fetus conflict and the Tooley’s/ Paul Bassen claim.

Marquis does jump over some issues that would lead to the difficulty including pregnancy due to rape, abortion before implantation, contraceptives and fetus-woman conflict. Marquis validates this hurdle by explaining that this article is a general argument for the majority of abortions which are deliberate cases that don’t involve any of these conflicting issues. Other shortcomings of Marquis’s article include the fetus’s inability to understand the potential future and the limitless inclusion of potentiality would give rights to all, including animals.
State your own position on the issue and briefly argue for your conclusion:

At a younger age I was completely pro-choice regarding the abortion issue because I believed a woman should have the right to do what she pleases with her body; however, with age and the experience of my own pregnancy I came to realize the pro-choice arguments were over generalized and lacked important components. Pro-choice argument’s on abortion never mentioned the stages of personality development a fetus undergoes in utero, this is including the formation of habits, playing gestures, development of likes and ability to feel pain. If these attributes do not constitute what it means to be a valuable human being, then what does?

The baby is dependent in early stages of development; however, I don’t believe this is a reason to consider a fetus to be any less. Many elderly, mentally ill or challenged individuals are also dependent upon other people for their survival. In my belief the pro-choice argument has gained a large number of supporters because only women are able to experience pregnancy, the lack of scientific data determining the cognital development of a fetus and the moral standing of many individuals that are blissful in the ignorance to be able to unload an unwanted responsibility.

My argument on abortion is only based upon my own experience and would not be able to win a debate on abortion or satisfy an ethics board; however, I believe there would no longer be an abortion debate if there was more scientific research on tracking the fetuses development for what is considered humanistic behavior such as habits, pain, likes and even attitudes.