

[Annabel Sheinberg](#)- Testimonial

I arrived on the Brown University campus for the first live reading of *The Turnaway Play* not knowing exactly what to expect. The student organizer and I, Nora Cowett, had a few phone discussions prior to the event to discuss details, but Nora worked mostly autonomously from there.

Nora was able to secure a sponsorship with the Gender and Sexuality Studies Department and the Department offered a free space on campus for the reading. Nora was also able to confirm that a professor from the Department would join Nora following the play for a discussion panel.

Nora hung flyers for the performance around Brown's campus — mostly close to the venue. She also created posts for Instagram that were re-shared by other student organizers. It was an exciting time to be on campus, and to be hosting this reading, with lots going on for students enjoying their spring semester.

Nora shared that it was easy to cast people for the reading; she simply walked around Brown's quad on a nice spring day when everyone was sitting outside and told them what she was working on. All in all, Nora secured four readers in less than 30 minutes.

About 50 students attended, as well as some community members. Most stayed to participate in the discussions that followed. Nora had a QR code made linking to the local abortion fund and suggested that students could support the fund via a donation, expanding access to abortion care for others.

Students who participated said it felt very important to be reading this play at this point in their lives and were moved by the discussion following the reading because it let them know about what is going on at the state level where they attend school (Rhode Island), and about past events that local organizers had done on campus with students. Students also learned how to get involved with their local reproductive rights advocacy coalition and about the coalition's accomplishments. The discussion also addressed how students could address abortion stigma on the campus.