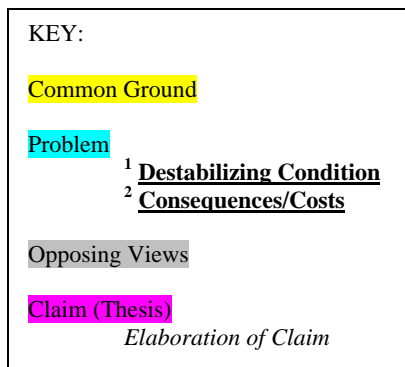


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## AIDS Tests and Experiments

The United States is the country with the most advanced technology in medicine. American scientists have been conducting experiments to provide Americans with the latest medicines for a healthier life. A key problem in these experiments is that most of them are being conducted with foster children; poor African-Americans, and Hispanics<sup>1</sup>. According to the Associated Press, more than 13,878 children have been enrolled in pediatric AIDS studies<sup>1</sup>. For consumers, these innovations in medicine are a big advantage to them. On the other hand, people who are used as test subjects suffer from side effects<sup>2</sup> of drugs given to them; some even die. Since 1996, when President Clinton was in office, there have been representatives like Coburn and Mayersohn who support the experiments and the AIDS tests on newborns (Smith 2). They argue that children used in experiments are acquiring a new opportunity to live despite the HIV in their body. Ryan White, another advocate of mandatory HIV tests on newborns, argues that it will protect them from AIDS while they grow up (Rovner 1). I disagree with the ideas of these three representatives because children are being given new drugs whose side effects are unknown. Even though they are getting the latest medicines, they also suffer from the effects of the drugs. *Many of these children are used as test subjects without having an advocate to represent them; they are being denied the right to choose if they want to be part of the experiments. This issue has become a scandal in the country, and activists are fighting to void laws that allow these kinds of treatment on humans, especially on children, as subjects for experiments.*