First Last Name

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English II

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Current Event: University of Kentucky’s Funding to Help Addiction

 I am studying the addiction of opioids, but the information I find has to come from somewhere. This information has to come from research. That is why the University of Kentucky is getting $87 million to put towards the research of opioid addiction.

 Some people who are addicted to opioids already have the insurance and resources they need to recover from addiction, but they don’t always take advantage of the things they have. Other people who want to stop using prescription pain-killers don’t have the money or resources. The money that the University of Kentucky was given could help some of those people during the experiment, and after the experiment. Once they are done testing, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will know if a wider effort to help addicts is worth it. They are going to see if it is cheaper than sending people to jail.

 This event stands out to me because it shows that big drug research companies want to get people involved. They wouldn’t be funding this project if they didn’t believe it would have good results. I also like how after the project is over and the results are final, the research will be released to many other schools and companies to help educate them on better ways to help addicted people. I learned that a lot of insurance companies won’t pay for any kind of recovery a patient wants to take place in. It seems like they should want people to get better, but patients still end up paying for the treatments in cash.

 I think that an implication of this event is that other schools and drug research companies will start to do more tests on how we can safely reduce drug use or at least get it under control. When it is over after four years, I think that a lot of insurance companies might start to consider paying for people to get treatment. The results will be very impactful to pretty much everyone in the world. Not everyone does drugs, but if more people get involved in helping those who are addicted, it could turn out to be cheaper than sending too many people to jail on drug charges. I don’t think it has any direct impact on my life, but it definitely will have an effect on the lives of others. People should care about it because the opioid epidemic is huge, and if it doesn’t stop soon, they could be mourning someone who died of an overdose.

 The organization that is providing the money is also testing in Ohio, New York, and Massachusetts. I want to know if all of these states are doing the same kind of testing as the University of Kentucky. I also want to know if they are going to help people of every race and see if anything is different between them.