

# HEALTH, DEVELOPMENT & HUMAN RIGHTS

---

## Understanding AIDS in Africa

As you read the material for our next class, keep the questions below in mind. To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages. Keep in mind that there are two basic kinds of information that you need to look for in the reading:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, *it is information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible conclusion about an issue, rather than another.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently about these issues at our next class meeting.

### Reading

- Eileen Stillwaggon, "AIDS and Poverty in Africa: Prevention and Treatment Require A Focus On Overall Health and Development".

### Questions

1. What is the thesis of Stillwaggon's paper? Notice that her thesis has two parts. The first part of her thesis is negative, claiming that something is *not* the case about AIDS in Africa, whereas the second part of her thesis is positive, claiming that something *actually is* the case about AIDS in Africa. Clearly distinguish between these negative and positive parts of her thesis.
2. How does Stillwaggon defend each part of her thesis? That is, what is her argument in this paper? In doing so, clearly distinguish between her *descriptive* claims (that is, claims based on biological and other scientific facts) and her *normative* claims (that is, claims based on moral evaluations and prescriptions).
3. Why does Stillwaggon believe justifying her thesis is important?