SUMMARY OF RESEARCH

Although one of the main purposes of genetically modified organisms is to create a better yield for the ever increasing population, the side effects of GMO consumption are often unknown. In some cases, researchers found humans become allergic to foods when they have never before had allergies. The culprit of these mysterious new allergens were transgenic plants. Transgenic plants are produced when “DNA from species other than the plant itself” are spliced into the DNA in order to produce a better product (McIntosh 417). The DNA that is used to create the new genetically enhanced plant “can be from a related species, an unrelated plant species, or from completely different organisms such as bacteria, fungi, or even animals” (McIntosh 417). Oftentimes, consumers who purchase GMO foods do not know which plants, bacteria, fungi, or animals have been spliced into their food. Allergy tests done in the United Kingdom showed that “some people react to GM soy, but not to wild natural soy” (“Genetically Modified Crops Are Not Safe” 59). Although some companies producing GMO foods do so to make their food more nutritious, consumers do not have the luxury of knowing the origins of the transgenic food and whether or not they will be allergic to it.

Not only does research show that GMO foods produced new, unknown allergic reactions, but the long-term effects of GMO foods are also unknown. Even though GMO crops and foods will often produce a higher yield, “FDA scientists [have] repeatedly warned that GM foods can create unpredictable, hard-to-detect side effects” (“Genetically Modified Crops Are Not Safe” 60). Many pro-GMO producers, like major agricultural biotechnology company Monsanto, will claim that there are no side effects to eating GMO foods; however, that is easy to claim where “there are virtually no long-term health studies that have been conducted on the consumption of genetically engineered food” (Kallas). The only studies that have been conducted are those done by the megacorporations themselves. Even though the Food and Drug Administration has approved GMO foods, “there isn’t any mandatory testing” that needs to happen in order to get these foods on the market (Kallas). Companies that control the genetically engineered seeds conduct their own tests to approve of their own product. Although many companies and even portions of the federal government approve GMO foods and state nothing to be harmful of them, there is not enough conclusive evidence to state whether or not GMO foods are safe to eat and have no long-term effects.

Paragraph 3 still needed…