

Smarthinking Tutor Response Form

Your tutor has written overview comments about your essay in the form below. Your tutor has also embedded comments **[in bold and in brackets]** within your essay. Thank you for choosing Smarthinking to help you improve your writing!

***Writing Strength:**

Hi Jerry! My name is Angela C., and I will be your tutor today. You have effectively varied the sentences in this essay. Rather than opening each sentence with a subject and a verb, you experiment with introductory phrases and complex sentences. This variation makes your paper more appealing for your readers. Now, let's work on word choice, sentence structure, and grammar & mechanics.

***Jerry 316343 has requested that you respond to the Word Choice:**

To make your writing clearer, be sure you have chosen correct verb forms. One verb form problem I found was subject-verb agreement. Here is an example from your essay:

Walk down a block and the smell of greasy yet tasteful French Fries overwhelm the nostrils

The subject and verb in a clause must always agree. In some sentences, the subject and verb are not right next to each other. When that happens, you must carefully match the verb to the correct noun. In the sentence above, you mistakenly matched the verb "overwhelm" to the noun "French Fries." Look more closely: the "smell" is what is really doing the overwhelming, not the French fries. Since "smell" is singular—just one smell—"overwhelm" should also be singular.

Check all of your sentences, carefully pick out the subject, and make sure the verb agrees with that subject. I found a few other verb form errors in your essay as well. You can find extensive help on verb forms in the [Smarthinking English for Speakers of Other Languages \(ESOL\) Writer's Handbook](#).

Sentence Structure:

I also noticed that you have a number of sentence fragments in your essay, Jerry. Here's an example of one sentence fragment I found:

In essence, an established win-win for the fast-food restaurants, as well as the consumer.

Although you have punctuated this as if it were a sentence, the passage is missing a subject and a verb. Therefore, it is not a sentence. *What* is "an established win-win"? What *action* is this subject completing? Here's an example of a similar sentence fragment. I will show you how to fix it.

A bird of enormous size.

This sentence has no subject to tell *what* is a bird of enormous size. It also has no verb to link the missing subject to the rest of the phrase. Before this fragment, we might find a sentence like this:

The ostrich stands out among feathered animals.

That sentence tells us *what* the bird of enormous size is. It is not connected to the fragment, though, so readers still have to guess what is meant by the fragment, "A bird of enormous size." We could fix the fragment in one of two ways:

Option 1: *The ostrich stands out among feathered animals. It is a bird of enormous size.*

Option 2: *A bird of enormous size, the ostrich stands out among feathered animals.*

In **option 1**, I added "it is" to complete the sentence. "It" is the subject and refers to "the ostrich" in the previous sentence. "Is" is the verb. In **option 2**, I placed "A bird of enormous size" at the beginning of the sentence stating that the ostrich stands out. Now, "A bird of enormous size" serves as a modifier—a word or phrase that describes the word it is next to—and becomes part of a complete sentence.

Using my examples, experiment with ways you might fix the above sentence fragment from your essay. Then, read through your essay carefully. Look for sentences and parts of sentences that are missing a subject, a verb, or both. The Smarthinking Writer's Handbook has a lesson that will help you understand what makes a sentence complete: [Lesson 2: Sentence Boundaries: Complete Sentences](#).

***Jerry 316343 has requested that you respond to the Grammar and Mechanics:**

The mechanical problem that occurs most frequently in your essay is the misplaced comma. I found a number of commas in places where you did not need them. Here is one example from your essay:

Time or lack thereof has placed a constraint on the current, health of children but choosing to make the right choice will forever be tested.

Commas show readers which words go together. An adjective and the noun it describes, for example, always go together. In the sentence above, the adjective "current" describes the noun, "health." The two words go together. Therefore, you do not need to place a comma between them.

Mastering commas means learning a few rules. Look in your learners' handbook for the comma rules and practice using them. You can also find a list of comma rules here: [Lesson 9: Comma Usage](#). Once you have reviewed the rules, practice writing a few sentences that follow them. Then, read through your essay carefully, looking for commas. Eliminate any that do not follow the rules.

Summary of Next Steps:

Jerry, you make an important point in your essay, and with some revision, your point will come across even more clearly and convincingly. Here are the steps you need to take to revise:

1. Find and fix incorrect verb forms.
2. Identify and reword fragments and sentences containing fragments.
3. Find unnecessary commas and eliminate them from your sentences.

To help you make the greatest possible improvement in your essay, I have focused only on the most commonly-occurring errors. Be aware that other types of errors are present in your essay. Therefore, once you've completed the above revisions, don't hesitate to resubmit your essay for further review. For help with your essay content, submit it to the regular essay queue. Happy revising! –Angela C.

You can find more information about writing, grammar, and usage in the [Smarthinking Writer's Handbook](#).

Please look for comments **[in bold and in brackets]** in your essay below.

Thank you for submitting your work to Smarthinking! We hope to see you again soon.

Jerry Morales

Ms. Kellen

English I

September 22, 2012

The Obesity Health Blame

Today's America, not the America grandparents once knew. **[This sentence is missing a verb. "Today's America" did what? Add a verb to connect "Today's America" to the ideas in the rest of the phrase.]** Yesterday's America, was a time where grandparents could stroll through the streets, without passing a fast-food restaurant on every corner. Walk down a block and the smell of greasy yet tasteful French Fries overwhelm the nostrils. Fast-food, along with the added calories, was not frowned upon, as much as the now vast concern for obesity and health risks. Society has become extremely hectic and demanding. People find themselves in constant movement, with less time to enjoy life and their families. In the article, "Don't Blame the Eater", by David Zinczenko, Zinczenko emphasized what was the contributing factor to his obesity, when he quoted, "lunch and dinner for me, was a daily choice between McDonald's, Taco Bell, Kentucky Fried Chicken or Pizza Hut" (395). **[Look at the comma after "obesity." It sets off "when he quoted" from the rest of the sentence. "When he quoted," however, is part of the idea of what Zinczenko "emphasized." If you had placed "when he quoted" just after "Zinczenko emphasized," Jerry, would you have used a comma?]**

This leaves people to wonder, if only there were healthier choices. Hard working parents need to play a more active role in what and where their children eat, because contrary to what David Zinczenko, states in "Don't Blame the Eater" one can in fact, find local groceries and produce.

Many fast-food restaurants now realize more people eating out and a fast dollar made, resulted in obesity and health concerns, along with many law suits. Not to mention, government stepping in to enforce health regulations. **[This sentence is missing a subject and a verb. "Government stepping in to enforce health regulations" does what?]** These fast-food restaurants have wised

up and began offering an array of healthier food choices to their menus, as well as calorie counts. For example; Subway has listed their calorie counts and grams per fat on their menus, as well as their napkins. McDonald's now offers healthy selections, as well as selections for the all American, in a haste consumer. Burger King offers healthy salads as well as smoothies, the latest commodity in pure refreshment. In essence, an established win-win for the fast-food restaurants, as well as the consumer. And while, restaurants such as McDonald's and Burger King have been known for the famous fried, French fries, they too have realized that marketing to a diverse group means more clients and fewer lawsuits.

Lawsuits which have clearly been brought on by parents and not children, as Zinczenko quoted, "suing the company for making them fat" (391). Today, suing fast-food restaurants for children's obesity has become an everyday event. Although life today has become more demanding, the number one priority should still be children because they are the next generation. Under no circumstance, should a child's future be put in jeopardy. What they are allowed to eat today will ultimately alter their tomorrow. Would it be fair, when a parent chooses to by-pass a local food mart or produce stand, simply to make a quick stop at a fast food chain? Would it be fair, when parents allow their children to sit around the house, playing video games all afternoon, instead of taking them outside for some fresh air and exercise? Time or lack thereof has placed a constraint on the current, health of children but choosing to make the right choice will forever be tested.

With obesity on the rise, a domino effect takes place. Medical costs, have sky rocketed, along with frequent trips to the doctor's office and now tax payers feel the wrath. Yet, another reality comes to mind, young adults accepting responsibility for their own health. As Zinczenko quoted, "I got lucky" (392). Not every young adult may feel so lucky; however one's interpretation of being lucky may differ and one fact does remain. **[You have avoided writing a comma splice by choosing the semi-colon here, Jerry. Nice work!]** There are more health shows, pamphlets and healthy alternative cook books, which contribute to controlling obesity, as long as people have a desire for a healthier tomorrow.

In conclusion, parents, young adults and fast-food restaurants, should come to an agreement. Parents should make the choice to add even the slightest nutrition to a child's daily diet. Parents should teach their children to put down the video games and become active. Young adults should

release the couch potato mentality and become involved in a community full of resources and activities. All fast-food restaurants, should add healthy alternatives, along with warning labels. Without, these various entities coming together, America's obesity will continue to rise and take control. **[Check the word "entity" in your dictionary. It is not generally used to represent the kinds of things you have just mentioned (such as healthy alternative menu items and warning labels). Use a thesaurus or a classmate to list several words that might work in place of "entity." Use your dictionary to pick the best word.]** After all, America is use to controlling and not being controlled.

Works Cited

Zinczenko, David. "*Don't Blame the Eater*". *They Say/I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*.

Comp. Graff, Gerald, Cathy Birkenstein, and Russell Durst. New York W.W. Norton & Company, 2006.
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