

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!

Hi, Marvin! My name is Angela C, and I look forward to working with you on this **Grammar and Documentation Review** to improve your writing today. Let's get started!

***Writing Strength:**

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 makes your paper more appealing to your readers.

Word Choice:

The word "quoted" is used incorrectly throughout your essay, Marvin. Look at the following example:

As Zinzchenko quoted, "I got lucky" (392).

When you say that an author has quoted something, it means that the author has used someone else's words—not his or her own. To help readers understand that Zinzchenko is not quoting someone else, you will want to use different verbs. In this case, perhaps he says, states, admits, confesses, declares, or comments—just to name a few possible verbs that would be appropriate. Each of these words has a slightly different meaning, so if you use one of them, make sure it fits your sentence. You can use a dictionary to help you if you'd like. Also please note that in an MLA paper like yours, we use present-tense verbs like "writes," or "states" to describe what authors say and do. Now with these ideas in mind, look for each example of "quoted," and choose a more precise verb.

Sentence Structure:

I also noticed sentence fragments in this draft of your essay about obesity. Here is one of them:

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

This is actually a phrase that goes with a nearby sentence. It cannot stand alone as a complete sentence because it does not have a subject and a verb. What is "an established win-win"? The answer to this question may be in a nearby sentence. If so, you can combine this phrase with it. Let's look at one possibility:

Burger King offers healthy salads as well as smoothies, the latest commodity in pure refreshment and, in essence, an established win-win for the fast-food restaurants, as well as the consumer.

The words in plain font show that you can connect this phrase with the word "and." Sometimes you can just combine the phrase without adding a word. With this in mind, look for other places where a phrase is confused for a complete sentence, and combine it with the appropriate nearby sentence. This will help you to avoid unnecessarily interrupting your ideas.

Grammar & Mechanics:

You often place commas between your subjects and predicates, which creates an awkward pause in the middle of your thoughts. For example, in your fifth paragraph, you write,

Medical costs, have sky rocketed, along with frequent trips to the doctor's office and now tax payers feel the wrath.

The comma between "medical costs," which is your subject, and "have sky rocketed...," which is your predicate, interrupts the flow of your sentence, so let's take it out. This will help your readers see how your subject and predicate fit together to form a clear, coherent thought. Remember, subjects and predicates should never be separated by punctuation marks, not even commas, so after you revise this sentence, look for similar comma errors in the rest of your draft.

If you need more help figuring out where your commas should (and shouldn't) go, check out [Comma Usage](#) in our writer's handbook.

Summary of Next Steps:

- Correct the instances of the verb "quoted."
- Find and fix sentence fragments.
- Remove any commas that separate your subjects and predicates.

Marvin, you make an important point in your essay, and with some revision, your point will come across even more clearly and convincingly. Thank you for submitting your essay for a review. –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.

The Obesity Health Blame

Today's America, not the America grandparents once knew. **[This sentence is missing a verb. "Today's America" is what? Add a verb to connect the subject, "Today's America", to the ideas in the rest of the phrase. This will complete your sentence.]** 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).

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. These fast-food restaurants have wised up and began offering an array of healthier food choices to their menus, as well 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). **[What verb can you use here instead of "quoted" to show that Zinczenko made this comment? Some possibilities include: explains, asserts, argues, observes, or declares. Which one best fits your sentence? If none of these options work for you, Marvin, then look for another verb to clarify your sentence.]** 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. 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. **[The comma between "restaurants" and "should add" disrupts your sentence by separating the subject and the predicate. What can you do to improve the flow of this sentence?]** Without, these various entities coming together, America's obesity will continue to rise and take control. 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.
391-394