

Argument Paper, Draft with Instructor's Comments, MLA Style (Zhang)

Zhang 1

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Title needs to be more focused. A clearer thesis in first paragraph may help.

Drive on any highway in America and you'll find fast-food restaurants at every exit and service area. Walk through any super-market and you'll see prepared foods that say "make it in minutes" and "ready to serve." According to article by James Bone on the TimesOnline Web site, only one-third of Americans cook meals from scratch, meaning with fresh ingredients. Bone also report that Americans spend only thirty minutes cooking dinner, compared with 2-1/2 hours in the 1960s. And in his book *Fast Food Nation*, Eric Schlosser claims that one-quarter of Americans eat in a fast-food restaurant each day (3).

In most households in United States, two people are working (Bone), and people with full-time jobs have little time for food shopping and cooking meals. Instead of coming home from work at night and chopping vegetables, many people prefer to cook something in their microwave or get take-out from a chain restaurant. This is why Americans are eating fast food so often—they don't have enough time.

And even if Americans did have more time to cook every night, it is hard for them to find good food anywhere. Modern agriculture, which is focused on disease resistance, long shelf life, and shippability, has sacrificed taste. Supermarkets devote far more

Missing article

Verb tense

Missing article with proper noun

Opening paragraph needs a clear thesis.

This sentence sounds like the main point of the paragraph. Try moving it to beginning of paragraph.

space to boxed and canned items than they do to frozen foods and fresh meat, fish, and vegetables.

Paragraph strays from main topic of paper. Consider eliminating.

Another reason that mealtime has become so short is that many younger adults grew up in what one might call a fast-food culture. In the past thirty years, inventions such as cell phone, fax machine, and computer have increased the pace of life. At the same time, microwave oven, drive-through restaurant, and TV dinner have changed the way Americans eat. Many people now prefer to eat quickly, even in their cars or in front of the television, instead of take time to cook a meal and sit at the table. In this culture of instant gratification, people don't think food is important enough to spend much time on.

Noun ("-ing" form) after preposition

Plural nouns for general categories

Americans' obsession with fast food has caused the quality of their lives to go down. First of all, their health is suffering. As most people know, fast foods and frozen meals generally less healthy than foods made from scratch. They have lots of preservatives, fat, sugar, and salt to hide the fact that they are not fresh. If people will not eat fresh foods that provide necessary vitamins and minerals, they may become tired and sick, and they may miss out on opportunities to enjoy their lives.

Missing linking verb

No "will" in "if" clause

Another serious health concern is obesity. Is an obesity epidemic in America today, especially with young people, that is related to the way people are eating. According to Schlosser, "the rate of obesity among American children is twice as high as it was in the late 1970s" (240). Obesity can lead to many health problems, including diabetes, heart disease, and cancer. The United

Placeholder "There" missing

Possible plagiarism. Check the source.

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If the words are directly from the source, use quotation marks.

States Department of Health and Human Services notes that deaths due to poor diet and physical inactivity increased 33 percent over the past decade and may soon overtake tobacco as the leading cause of death in this country. Certainly, if fast food causes people to become obese, and then obesity causes them to get sick or die, fast food cannot be consider an "improvement" in Americans' lives.

End of essay needs development.

Passive verb form

The economy causes most people to work long hours, and that leaves little time for cooking, so it is understandable that people rely so much on fast food. It makes life much easier and allows parents to get other things done around the house and spend time with their children. If they try hard enough, people can even find healthy options at fast-food restaurants, such as salads and bottled water instead of fries and sodas. So maybe fast food isn't always a bad thing.

Readers expect a strong ending with a clear point, not an open-ended statement.

This paragraph may confuse

readers--it takes the opposite view of your main point. Revise to acknowledge opposing view without contradicting your main point.

Works Cited

Bone, James. "Good Home Cooking—Right off the Assembly
Line." *TimesOnline* 27 Mar. 2006. Web. 9 Oct. 2006.

For an
online
source,
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against Overweight Epidemic." *HHS.gov*. 10 Mar. 2004. Web.
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