

Argument Paper, Draft with Comments, MLA Style (Zhang)

Zhang 1

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The title needs to be more focused. A clearer thesis in the first paragraph may help.

The Importance of Food

If you drive on any highway in the United States, you will see many fast-food restaurants. Most supermarkets are full of prepared foods that say “make it in minutes” and “ready to serve.” According to article by James Bone on *TimesOnline* Web site, only one-third of Americans cook meals from scratch. Bone also write that Americans spend only thirty minutes cooking dinner, but they spent 2½ hours in the 1960s. In his book *Fast Food Nation*, Eric Schlosser says that one-quarter of Americans eat in a fast-food restaurant each day (3).

Missing articles

Verb form

Missing article with proper noun

The opening paragraph needs a clear thesis.

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

Is this the main point of the paragraph? Try moving it to the beginning of the paragraph.

And even if Americans did have more time to cook every night, it is hard for them to find good fresh food. Supermarkets have many foods in cans and boxes, but they sometimes don’t have much fresh meat and vegetables. This paragraph strays from the main topic of the paper. Consider deleting it.

Another reason that mealtime has become so short is that many younger adults grew up eating fast food for almost all meals. In the past fifteen years, cell phones, the Internet, and e-mail have increased the speed of everyday communication.

Use plural nouns for general categories

At the same time, microwave oven, drive-through restaurant, and frozen dinner have changed the way Americans eat. Many people now like 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. When people are used to everything fast in their lives, they don't think food is important enough to spend much time on.

Noun ("-ing" form) after preposition

Americans' obsession with fast food has caused the quality of their lives to go down. First of all, their health is suffering.

Missing linking verb

As most people know, fast foods and frozen meals generally less healthy than foods made at home. 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 vitamins and minerals, they may become tired and sick, and they may miss out on opportunities to enjoy their lives.

No "will" in "if" clause

Another serious health problem is obesity. Is an obesity epidemic in the United States today, especially with young people, and it's 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 States Department of Health and Human Services notes

Placeholder "There" missing

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

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that deaths due to poor diet and physical inactivity increased 33 percent in the 1990s and may soon overtake tobacco as the leading cause of death in the United States. 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.

Passive verb form

The economy causes most people to work long hours, so they don’t have time for cooking and they rely 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.

This paragraph may confuse readers—it takes the opposite view of your main point. Revise it to acknowledge the opposing view without contradicting your main point.

The end of the essay needs development. Readers expect a strong ending with a clear point, not an open-ended statement.

Works Cited

Bone, James. "Good Home Cooking—Right off the Assembly Line."

TimesOnline 27 Mar. 2006. Web. 9 Oct. 2008.

Schlosser, Eric. *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American*

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