Before you read Weintraub’s “The Battle Against Fast Food” and Zinczenkos “Don’t Blame the Eater,” write answers the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

Once you have had an opportunity to respond by yourself, you will have an opportunity to share with your table and make additions to your answers.
On the basis of the title of his article, what do you think Weintraub’s position will be? In what ways do you think his article will be similar to those of Brownlee and Barboza? In what ways do you think it will be different? What do you think his purpose is?

On the basis of the title of his article, what do you think Zinczenko’s position will be? Which of the other authors do you think he might agree with?

What do you expect is the purpose of the letters to the editor written in response to Zinczenko? How will they be different from Zinczenko’s article?

What else can you tell about the letters just by looking at them?
Making Predictions and Asking Questions

- Read the first two and the last paragraphs of Weintraub’s article. According to Weintraub, who is responsible for America’s obesity problem? What arguments do you think he will make?

- How do you think he will respond to the arguments raised by Brownlee and Barboza?

- Read the first two and the last paragraphs of Zinczenko’s article. Why does he bring up Jay Leno’s monologue? According to Zinczenko, who is responsible for America’s obesity problem? What arguments do you think he will make?

- Zinczenko and Weintraub both argue in part from personal experience. How do their viewpoints differ?

- Read the last paragraph of each of the letters to the editor. In each case, identify who the writer thinks is to blame. How do you know?
You will be reading the article “The Battle Against Fast Food Begins at Home” first.

- Read this text silently to yourself with NO WRITING IMPLEMENTS in your hands.
- DO NOT MOVE ON TO THE OTHER ARTICLES YET.
- Resist the temptation to multi-task and just read. 😊

Once you have read the third article, read “Don’t Blame the Eater” and the letters to the editor.

- Read this text silently to yourself with NO WRITING IMPLEMENTS in your hands.
- DO NOT MOVE ON TO THE OTHER ARTICLES YET.
- Resist the temptation to multi-task and just read. 😊
Annotating “Don’t Blame the Eater”

- Reread Zinczenko’s “Don’t Blame the Eater,” and annotate it as you go along.
- Underline, highlight, draw arrows, and write comments in the left-hand margin about the main ideas, questions or objections, and connections between the ideas.
- Write your reactions to what Zinczenko says in the right-hand margin.
Annotating “The Battle Against Fast Food”

- Reread Weintraub’s “The Battle Against Fast Food,” and annotate it as you go along.
  - Underline, highlight, draw arrows, and write comments in the left-hand margin about the main ideas, questions or objections, and connections between the ideas.
  - Write your reactions to what Weintraub says in the right-hand margin.
1. According to Zinczenko’s “Don’t Blame the Eater,” why are kids suing McDonald’s?

2. According to Zinczenko, what are the choices for American kids to get an affordable meal? Use the word “option” in your answer.

3. What causes 30 percent of the new cases of childhood diabetes in America?

4. Give an example of an alternative to fast food. How easy is it for kids to purchase that alternative? Why do you think this?

5. Do people who buy fast food know how many calories they are eating? Use the word “consume” or “consumer” in your answer.

6. What do you think of kids who file lawsuits against the fast-food Industry?

7. Do you agree with Zinczenko that the fast-food industry is vulnerable? Why?

8. Do you make informed choices when you buy fast food? How do you know?