Summary Analysis

Identify the following:
- Author
- Genre
- Title
- Date
- Rhetorical Verb
  - Argues
  - Claims
  - Suggests
  - (Or Similar verbs)

What is the main idea of the text?

List key points (quotations or examples) the author makes to illustrate and/or support this claim.

How does the author develop and support this claim? Focus on:
- Strategies
- Devices
- Organization

Currency, Reliability, Authority, Purpose

Summarize the author’s argument, focusing on the subject, purpose, and rhetorical strategies used to achieve that purpose.

In his article “Don’t Blame the Eater”, David Zinczenko argues that children who eat at fast food restaurants—like McDonald’s—should not be personally blamed for their weight gain and that, in fact, they should have the right to “launch lawsuits against the fast food industry” for making them fat. Zinczenko states that it’s easier to find a McDonald’s than it is to find a place to buy a grape fruit. In addition, he claims that even if consumers have access to the “calorie information... [it] can be hard to understand” for making them fat. Zinczenko begins his piece with a more humorous slant than what he ends with. He begins with an idea that blaming the eater for being fat is nearly as ludicrous as blaming Porche for speeding tickets. However, he quickly moves from the comedic value of blaming an eater to his own personal experience of growing up into a “torpid teenager tallow”, stating that as a latchkey kid of the 1980’s his only choices for lunch and dinner were places like Pizza Hut and McDonald’s. In addition, he cites numerous statistics that illustrate diabetes has increased since 1994, a fact he connects directly to kids eating fast food. Finally, he notes that caloric information is misleading. For example, he says that that the package of dressing a customer uses at a fast food restaurant actually contains 2.5 servings rather than just one serving, which means the eater consumes 620 calories versus the 280 they think they are eating. Even though, Zinczenko’s argument is well formulated, I do not agree with his argument that the eater is not to blame.

Although the article isn’t as current as I’d like, the topic is one that doesn’t necessitate immediacy. The information he includes is reliable. The caloric values are true, but the statistics for diabetes are not current enough to quote for today. The other information he uses to support his argument also passes the reliability test. Zinczenko definitely has authority. He managed a healthy living group and has been the editor for health magazines. His understanding of healthy living surpasses most; plus, he was also a person who was once overweight. However, these things also make him a bit biased. He targets fast food rather the people who eat there. I think the author’s purpose for writing this article is to make people stop and think about how fast food chains are a major cause in making people fat.