

Letters to the Editor

Please read the three texts below and then answer these four questions:

- What **kind** of text is this?
- What are the **essential** features of this kind of text? (Identify at least four.)
- How did the author **employ** these features?
- What was the author's **purpose** in employing them that way? What meaning and effect did the author want to achieve?

Your answers to the first and second questions will be the same for all three texts, but your answers to the third and fourth questions will vary.

Text 1

Dear Editor,

I am a WWII veteran. Your article about school lunches in America described people being upset by the "healthy changes," and I too think they have a right to be. We have a right to make choices for ourselves in this country. It's not for someone else to decide what we can or cannot eat. People should be free to decide the best portion size for them. I'm not against efforts to correct childhood obesity, but ultimately it should be the parent's decision, not the government's. When we start forcing small, unpalatable meals on kids, they're just going to bring extra food with them to school and ultimately increase childhood obesity. What kids are being served in schools now is garbage. If you want people to choose school lunch, then make it something people will choose!

Text 2

Dear Editor,

In your recent school lunch article I read that kids are still hungry after eating the new healthier school lunches. Several high school students are quoted in the article as saying the new food is not only unappetizing, but also served in too small portions. As someone with a school-age

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child, I agree that making school lunches healthy is important, but it doesn't help when the food is inedible or there is not enough of it. Contrary to what schools may think, reducing portion size is not the miracle fix for childhood obesity. Let's not overlook the side effects of reducing portion sizes. The article reports teachers are complaining about students falling asleep and getting distracted in class. I hope the voices of experts and concerned parents like myself will result in permanent, sustainable changes to school lunches—healthy AND adequate; healthy AND tasty!

Text 3

To the Editor:

I have been a nutritionist for twenty-nine years. I can't believe the furor caused and letters to the editor generated by reporting on the new healthier school lunches! In an article published in the *Baltimore Sun* on September 8, 2014, I read this: "Traditionally, the USDA had used the National School Lunch Program as a dumping ground for surplus meat and dairy commodities. Children consumed animal fat and sugary drinks, to the point where one-third have become overweight or obese. These early dietary flaws became lifelong addictions, raising the risk of diabetes, heart disease, and stroke."

I am here to tell you that the new healthy school lunch initiative is a good one! Parents should work with school cafeteria managers to encourage consumption of healthy foods. Initiatives could include student recipe or poster contests, a student garden, and "Meatless Mondays." This will be better for learning in the short term and better for health in the long term.