**Difficulty Level: Easy**

Write a response in which you discuss what questions would need to be answered in order to decide whether the recommendation and the argument on which it is based are reasonable. Be sure to explain how the answers to these questions would help to evaluate the recommendation.

**The following appeared in a letter to the school board in the town of Gaul.**

**All students should be required to take the healthy cooking course at Gaul High School. In the past three years, several cases of obesity have been observed in teenagers in and around Gaul. Since a number of parents in Gaul have complained that they are too busy to cook themselves or teach their children, some other instruction is necessary to ensure that these teenagers are eating healthy. Although there are two culinary schools in Gaul, parents on a tight budget cannot afford to pay for their fees. Therefore, an effective and mandatory program subsidized by the high school is the only solution to this serious problem.**

The author of this letter has drawn quite an analytical and optimistic conclusion for solving the obesity problem amongst the students at Gaul High School from a very flawed data. The author states that in past three years, several cases of obesity have been observed in teenagers in and around Gaul. Author comes to this conclusion because many parents have complained that they are too busy to cook for themsellves or teach their children how to cook , so its important that their should be a mandatory program subsidized by the high school and even though there are two culinary schools in Gaul, parents on tight budget cannot afford to pay for their fees. However before this demand is properly asserted three questions need to be answered.

Firstly, is it safe to assume that the cause of obesity that has been observed in the teenagers is because their parents are not able to provide them with home cooked meals and also dont have time to teach them to make their own? Isn't it possible that some teenagers who are say 18 and above might have different reason for being obese. As an average age of graduating out of highschool is 17, its possible that kids who are 18 and above are getting obese just by eating a lot of junk food at their part-time jobs. Its also possible that kids below 18, who regularly attend high school might be getting fat because they might be getting their lunch from cafeteria which might not have a lot of healthy options.

Hence due to a lot of questions that have aroused we can say that the authors argument have been significantly weakened.

Secondly, to continue a point raised earlier, can't the highschool authorities do a thorough check of the cafeteria kitchen and enforce a healtheir menu ? So just in case if a students parents are not able to cook lunch for their kid and don't have time to teach them how to cook, the student might atleast get a healthy lunch or a snack at highschool cafeteria. So instead of having a different curiculum set up for teaching culinary skills to students, which will require a dedicated space and professional trainers, all of which will cost school thousands of dollars, isn't it economical to just provide healthy lunch/snacks options to students? This way parents who are on tight budget won't have too worry as well because now their kid can just have a healthy food at high school cafeteria. So unless these questions are answered, the argument raised by the author doesn't hold any water.

Thridly, is it possible for enrolling high school kids into Culinary schools without them completing their highschool diploma? If my knowledge serves right, one can get admission in a professional course only if one completes highschool and gets their highschool diploma. So even if there are two culinary schools in Gaul, they won't be of any use to the high school students. Now its obvious that parents on tight budget won't be able to afford to pay for its fees but lets say even if some parents do send their kids to culinary school by some miracle, how would a fulltime highschool going student be able to give time for culinary school? A highschool student has a lot of classes to attend and coursework to complete, not to mention other extra curricular activities like sports, quiz teams etc. So between this tight schedule how would a regular high school going kid would find time to attend culinary school? So unless these questions are answered, the arguments raised by the author doesn't hold any ground.

In conclusion, the arguments raised by the author that highschool should arrange a subsidized and mandatory program to teach students how to cook so that they eat healthy food is considerably flawed. If the author is able to answer the three questions asked then his argument about mandatory subsidized program about teaching culinary skills can hold water. Until then the argument remains flawed as its based on some unwarranted assumptions. Hence the argument is completely unjustified and flawed.