

Should Minimum Wage be \$15 per Hour?

I. Essay

Construct a persuasive essay based on the prompt: “Should the minimum wage be fifteen dollars per hour?” You must pick one side or the other, NOT both. Remember to discuss specific examples from your previous knowledge. Review the rubric to know the requirements of an excellent essay. Your essay may be typed or neatly handwritten. It must include a prewriting and rough draft. You will be counted off 20 points for absence of either of these.

CATEGORY	4 - Above Standards	3 - Meets Standards	2 - Approaching Standards	1 - Below Standards
Evidence	All of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the author's position.	Most of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the author's position.	At least one of the pieces of evidence and examples is relevant and has an explanation that shows how that piece of evidence supports the author's position.	Evidence and examples are NOT relevant AND/OR are not explained.
Focus or Thesis Statement	The thesis statement names the topic of the essay and outlines the main points to be discussed.	The thesis statement names the topic of the essay.	The thesis statement outlines some or all of the main points to be discussed but does not name the topic.	The thesis statement does not name the topic AND does not preview what will be discussed.
Sentence Structure	All sentences are well-constructed with varied structure.	Most sentences are well-constructed and there is some varied sentence structure in the essay.	Most sentences are well constructed, but there is no variation in structure.	Most sentences are not well-constructed or varied.
Grammar & Spelling	Author makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.

II. Editorial Response

Choose one of the following activities as if you had read a newspaper article with this headline: “Should minimum wage be increased?”

A. Letter to the Editor

On a separate sheet of paper, include a letter that one would write to the editor of the local newspaper in reaction to the given headline. This letter should be the same position you took in your essay but written in an informal manner.

B. Protest Sign

Create a protest sign in reaction to the given headline. You must have the same position as your essay. The cleverer, the more points! Go all out and create a sign that will never be forgotten!