

Civically Minimum Wage | Annotation

	Employs a Public Voice	Advocates Civic Engagement	Argues a Position Based on Reasoning & Evidence	Employs a Structure
<p>Title: Minimum Wage</p> <p>Form: Public Letter</p> <p>Media: Text</p> <p>URL: https://letters2president.org/letters/18385</p>	<p>Score: 3</p> <p>The writing: Satisfactorily uses rhetorical strategies appropriate for high school academic writing with the teacher as the primary audience (e.g., parenthetical citations). For example, the sources cited may not be familiar to the intended audience (e.g., Jason Pye, Jordan). The writing satisfactorily builds common ground by displaying empathy for those living on minimum wage and employs an analytic tone, appropriate to purpose.</p> <p>Satisfactorily establishes the writer’s credibility through demonstrating extensive familiarity with the topic. Two features keep it from being fully effective. First, the writing states unsubstantiated assumptions about the working poor may reduce the writer’s credibility for audience members with differing perspectives (“<i>Most adults...do not have a proper full education in order to work at a middle class level pay.</i>”) Second, careful editing would strengthen the piece (“<i>Not only will this close those business job opportunities, but will most have those small companies ran out of business.</i>”)</p>	<p>Score: 4</p> <p>The writing: Effectively raises public awareness about the potential downsides of raising the minimum wage, through a recounting of seven potentially negative effects. (“<i>What many people don’t realize is that raising the minimum wage would lead to a disaster of problems age majorities, education disputes, less jobs, unemployment, business issues, poverty, and pricings.</i>”)</p> <p>Effectively articulates why maintaining the minimum wage at its current rate is a reasonable course of action. Notably, it points out that raising the minimum wage could have the unintended consequence of making poverty worse. (“<i>Increasing minimum wage would overall not benefit even those of the workers who need the extra money.</i>”)</p>	<p>Score: 3</p> <p>The writing: Uses a satisfactory, cost-benefit analysis to argue against raising the minimum wage. Articulates a core argument that not only would raising the minimum wage negatively affect middle and upper class people as well as small businesses, it would not help raise people out of poverty. Articulates a clear value structure that the impact of a policy on American society as a whole, as well as potential unintended consequences, need to be considered.</p> <p>Satisfactorily interprets appropriate and sufficient evidence including economic studies assessing the impact of raising the minimum wage on jobs, and the consequences of an increase for small businesses. The writing uses unsupported claims to develop key pieces of the position. (e.g., “<i>Of those companies who would unemploy workers, they would try to keep their best employees. Those employees are usually young adults still attending college. The people who would need the money from the jobs the most would unfortunately be the ones who would most likely be removed of their job.</i>”) Relies on information (e.g., Jason Pye) without providing context about the author and the research cited.</p> <p>Notes alternate positions without demonstrating an understanding of the state-by-state arguments supporting an increase. In this case this limited mention supports but does not to strengthen the argument against raising the wage.</p>	<p>Score: 4</p> <p>The writing: Organizes information in a way that clearly and effectively develops the argument that raising the minimum wage would “<i>negatively affect all Americans</i>”. For example, paragraph 4 synthesizes information about young workers in paragraph 2 with information about job loss in paragraph 3.</p> <p>Includes a strong and purposeful closing that underscores why the significance of taking this position (“<i>Overall, the minimum wage increase would not benefit the people who need money the most...</i>”). While the first and less sentences of the opening are satisfactory, this alone is not sufficient to reduce the score to a 3.</p> <p>Competently links the text through repetition of the idea that there are many unexpected consequences of raising the minimum wage.</p>