

AP Economics Essay: Minimum Wage: Good, Bad, or Ugly?

Due: 11 Mar 22

The wages of working, the cost of labor, are vital topics to businesses, countries, states, workers... in other words, just about everyone. Generally, the idea is that if an employer wants to hire people, they need to offer enough wages to attract labor, and labor can pick and choose whom they will work for. While this is a nice sounding concept, critics argue it usually works the other way around, as laborers are desperate, trapped in a location without resources, and have little choice who they can work for. It has also been suggested that businesses will collude to keep wages low, in order to increase profits. In response, workers join unions to bargain collectively for higher wages. This is usually responded to by business owners with violence and union busting, and buying politicians in order to keep workers powerless and keep wages low. The government finally responded with a minimum wage for workers, but kept it low to benefit business.

Essay Topic: Is a minimum wage necessary? To what extent is it benefitting or hurting the economy, workers, and business? Should the minimum wage be larger, smaller, or non-existent? Explain your answers with proof, examples, data, and testimonies (DPE data, proof, evidence).

1. Essay opening
 - a. Introduction
 - b. Thesis (underline)
2. Main Body
 - a. What is the Minimum Wage?
 - i. Basic description and theory
 - b. Historical background
 - i. Creation
 - ii. States and the minimum wage
 - iii. What do other countries do about a minimum wage?
 - c. Minimum Wage Today
 - i. Is the minimum wage causing inflation?
 - ii. Is the minimum wage just for young people?
 - iii. Does the minimum wage amount to fair pay?
 - iv. Why are some jobs exempt from the minimum wage?
 - v. Minimum wage and discrimination
 1. Sex, gender, race, age
 - vi. Recent political fighting over Minimum Wage
 1. Positive arguments
 2. Negative arguments
 - vii. Does the minimum wage work?
 1. Are jobs being created or lost?
 2. Are people doing better?
 3. Is having the minimum wage better for society than not having the minimum wage?
 - viii. What effect does the minimum wage have on jobs that are not at minimum wage?
3. Conclusion
 - a. Bring it all together and restate thesis

1. Make sure to include citations *every time you use a statement or an idea from the readings that I have provided, or that you found in your own independent research*. Use **APA citation notation** (found on website). Using others work without providing proper citation is plagiarism and grounds for immediate failure on this essay.

2. Papers should be 8-10 pages in length and approximately 3000-3600 words, in Times New Roman or Ariel 12 point font, double spaced, pages numbered, cover page optional, references on last page (as per APA notation), 1 inch borders on top/bottom and left/right, stapled (no covers or binders). Be sure to include name and period.

3. Underline your Thesis.

4. Please type all work on a computer.