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# \$20 Minimum Wage

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## **Videos:**

“The Case For A \$20/Hour Minimum Wage”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3UwYGeS0kVU> (6:55 minutes)

“Minimum Wage Hikes Lead to Fewer Jobs and Higher Prices”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G\\_hiN8SOeis](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_hiN8SOeis) (5:39 minutes)

## **Guide:**

The questions below will help students achieve a better understanding of the arguments made on either side of a contentious topic. Because these questions often touch upon statements made briefly in the videos, we recommend reading the questions before watching each video.

Students are encouraged to take notes during the videos, and it may be helpful for students to break into groups, each taking responsibility for only a few questions, before coming together for discussion.

## **Analysis Questions:**

1. What are the opposing ideas in these two videos?
2. In the More Perfect Union video, we learned that New York raised its minimum wage to \$15/hour, but “now that minimum wage buys 15% less than it did in 2018.” Why has the value of the wage decreased?
3. John Stossel said that when California raised the minimum wage for fast food workers, the state lost nearly 10,000 fast food jobs. How did raising the minimum wage cause this to happen?
4. In the More Perfect Union video, Lolli Edinger said: “46% of the companies that hire home care workers can’t find enough staff, so it means people that needs the staff are going without.” Would raising the minimum wage solve this problem? Why/Why not?
5. In the Stossel video, we learned that restaurants in California "raised prices by 10% faster than all other states." Why did this happen?
6. In the More Perfect Union video, Jessica Ramos proposed that the minimum wage be indexed to inflation, so that it automatically increases with inflation annually. Is this a good idea? Why/Why not?
7. John Stossel said that if you force companies to raise wages, the companies might replace human workers with machines. Do you think this is a legitimate concern? Why/Why not?

8. In the More Perfect Union video, Maura Keaney said that Amalgamated Bank has already increased its minimum wage to \$20/hour. If the state raised the minimum wage to \$20/hour, how might Amalgamated Bank be affected? Would it be positive or negative? Why?
9. According to John Stossel, when Seattle raised its minimum wage to \$15, what happened to entry level job growth?
10. Lolli Edinger said: “If the [minimum wage] was up to the \$21 and change, it would allow [businesses] to actually hire qualified people.” What did she mean by this? If businesses need to raise their wages to hire qualified workers, what’s stopping them from doing so?
11. In the Stossel video, Rigel Noble-Koza said that Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland have no minimum wage. Did it surprise you to learn that these countries have no minimum wage? Why/Why not?
12. Maura Keaney said: “Higher minimum wages...help grow the economy. Workers who are making minimum wages are also consumers.” What did she mean by this?
13. In the Stossel video, we learned that part of the original motivation for a minimum wage in the U.S. was to make it harder for Black people to compete in the job market. Is this relevant to the current issue of minimum wage? Why/Why not?
14. In the More Perfect Union video, Tafador Sourov said: “[S]olidarity is the most important word in the language of the working class.” What did he mean by this?
15. In the Stossel video, we learned that when California raised its minimum wage, it faced the same negative effects that Seattle experienced years prior. Why do states keep raising the minimum wage if it has such negative effects?
16. Did these two videos share any common ground? Were there any points on which they agreed? If so, what were they?
17. Should one of the arguments we heard carry more weight than the other? If so, which one? Why?
18. Did you have an opinion on this topic before watching these videos? If so, what was it? Has your opinion changed? If so, how? What did you learn from these videos that affects your views on this topic?
19. What else would you like to learn about this topic?
20. For more on this topic, see these other Both Sides of the Issue Pairings:
  - a. [Both Sides of the Issue: Examining the Minimum Wage](#)
  - b. [Both Sides of the Issue: Minimum Wage Revisited](#)
  - c. [Both Sides of the Issue: Are Tipped Workers Being Exploited?](#)