

## Part II – Non-Freshman Applicant’s Essay

The federal minimum wage, enacted in 1938’s Fair Labor Standards Act, set a nationwide standard of pay that exists to this day. In recent happenings, Congress has debated the idea of raising the national minimum wage to \$15/hour. While this is more than double the existing federal rate, several cities already have \$15/hour as a required rate with a few states phasing in over the next few years. While many argue that raising the minimum wage would boost the earnings of low-wage workers, others contend that it will result in a significant number of jobs lost from the economy.

Please read and watch the required materials below. After that, please write a 700 – 850 word essay comparing and contrasting historic and current Federal and State approaches to raising the minimum wage.

### **Please address the following questions in your essay:**

- Based on the materials, do they suggest that there be a national minimum wage or statewide minimum wage, both, or neither? Why or why not? What do you think?
- If there should be a minimum wage, what rate would you think should be an appropriate amount?
- At high-level jobs, internships are offered that do not pay the interns. Is this fair? Should there be a minimum wage for entry level jobs or similar internships?
- Should there be exceptions to a minimum wage? Why or why not?
- Who is most hurt by a minimum wage? Who is most helped?
- What types of businesses are most hurt by the establishment of a minimum wage? Which are most helped?
- If the United States should enact a national minimum wage, what countries would be the most hurt and what countries would be the most benefited?

## Required Sources:

The required media includes approximately 70 pages of text and 2 hours of videos. All materials are available free of charge on the Internet, and should take approximately 8 hours to review.

## Online Reading Sources:

1. “The Budgetary Effects of the Raise the Wage Act of 2021”, Congressional Budget Office, <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2021-02/56975-Minimum-Wage.pdf>
2. “The Minimum Wage”, Dr, Walter Block and Kevin Sohr, <https://fee.org/articles/the-minimum-wage/>
3. “How a Minimum Wage Hurts Those It’s Designed to Protect”, Will Blakely, <https://fee.org/articles/how-a-minimum-wage-hurts-those-its-designed-to-protect/>
4. “Economics In One Easy Lesson”, Henry Hazlitt, chapter 18, *Minimum Wage Laws*, pages 118-122, <https://fee.org/media/14946/economicsononelesson.pdf>
5. “Free to Choose”, Milton and Rose Friedman, chapter 2, *The Tyranny of Controls*, pages 38-69, <http://www.proglocode.unam.mx/sites/proglocode.unam.mx/files/docencia/Milton%20y%20Rose%20Friedman%20-%20Free%20to%20Choose.pdf>
6. “Rich Dad, Poor Dad”, Robert T. Kiyosaki, chapter 7, pages 70-77, <https://manageo.io/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Rich-Dad-Poor-Dad.pdf>

## Online Video Sources:

1. “A Realistic Perspective on Minimum Wage”, Delegate Neil Parrott, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPkCJqAGBE4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPkCJqAGBE4)
1. “Who Does a \$15 Minimum Wage Help?” PragerU, <https://www.prageru.com/video/who-does-a-dollar15-minimum-wage-help/>
3. “What’s the Right Minimum Wage?” PragerU, <https://www.prageru.com/video/whats-the-right-minimum-wage/>
4. “Free To Choose 1980 - Vol. 02 The Tyranny of Control”, Free to Choose Network, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWgNe8v6KFc>
5. “Why \$15 Minimum Wage is a BAD Idea”, Thomas Sowell, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwHwaJNwRj4>
6. “Labor Markets and Minimum Wage: Crash Course Economics #28”, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWwXmH-n5Bo>