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### Have Americans Been Robbing Themselves All Along?

The United States of America, the greatest and most powerful nation in the world, has achieved world domination, fought for world peace, and virtually controls the world economy. However, this superior beast has fallen on its knees to the [twenty trillion dollar U.S. debt](#), the very price that it help create. Today, the United States has hit a widening recession which many economists thought would naturally evaporate, yet this issue has only magnified. Over 43.1 million citizens, that's about [14%](#) of the world population, are starved from adequate resources, and face intense poverty, much due to inequality and unemployment. How is it possible for such a victorious nation to fall to such dramatic economic issues, and how can we solve this problem? The answer lies in raising the national minimum wage. By increasing the minimum wage by a mere two dollars, the nation could increase living standards for workers, while heavily benefiting the US economy, and at the same time reducing government spending.

By increasing the minimum wage, the United States can help reduce poverty and protect laborers who make up the very framework of the nation's economic progress. Today, there are over 43 million truly hardworking and patriotic American citizens who are facing destitute living standards and sheer poverty. This number comprises the [200,000](#) people who perish each year due to malnutrition and hunger as well as over [10,000 attempts of suicide](#). The American labor class, the backbone and framework of this great nation, has to suffer from low wages and total destitution living conditions. Even more alarming, every one out five promising students die each year due to poverty. Millions of families around the country are struggling to just put food in the hand of their sorrowed, starving and hopeless family, and this situation only deteriorates when poverty starts to affect the lives of developing students. The easiest

and most consistent way to eliminate this situation is to raise the minimum wage. According to [2014 US congressional budget](#), elevating the minimum wage by a mere two to three dollars from \$7.50 to \$10, would lift close to a million hard working American citizens out of poverty. Increasing the minimum wage would also create over 85,000 new jobs in a three year phase, giving diligent Americans a second chance to live the American dream and prosper. This translates to the elimination of nearly two thirds of total poverty throughout the nation. Raising the minimum wage also reduces the inequality millions of workers face everyday. From the gender gap to racial discrimination, an elevation of the minimum wage would work to ensure a fair pay to all the laborers thus reducing worker exploitation. If this is truly the land of the free and home of the brave, then raise the minimum wage, so all Americans can enjoy their true liberties and have an equal chance to live the American dream.

Raising the minimum wage would not only aid those living in poverty, but it would also help to benefit the national economy. With an increased amount jobs and more people gaining a more fulfilling paycheck, the number of consumers in the markets would rise significantly, allowing more of the population to spend even more money in business. Increasing wages would thus help foster economic growth by increasing able consumerism. This in return would shower more capital into the national economy, allowing our government to construct more public infrastructure, and a produce higher quality of goods. In this sense, raising the minimum wage would not only assist the working class, but the ripple effect would also help all classes of American citizens.

According to the [Center of American Progress](#), raising the minimum wage would result in 1.7 million citizens no longer dependent on government welfare. Food stamps would also decrease by and annual 6%. If low income workers earned more money, their dependence and eligibility for government subsidizes and benefits would dramatically decrease, means less government spending. This means that the national debt would decrease by over [600 billion dollars](#) in federal support. Finally being able to strike back at the oppressive debt crisis, the government can focus its investment on a more widespread and

qualitative gesture that can help benefit the lives and conditions of all US citizens, and ultimately elevate the standards for the national economy all together.

Despite the numerous benefits raising the minimum wage would produce to the working classes, egocentric critics still claim that raising the minimum wage would only work to hurt large and wealthy businesses because of the fact that employers would have to pay their employees more. However, this is not the case. In reality, raising the minimum wage can work to better large business and their employees equally. Studies, such the experiment executed by the [Harvard Business Review](#), has shown that increased worker wages can actually save companies millions of dollars in revenue as well as production efficiency and speed. The [American Psychological Association](#) claims that more than \$500 billion is siphoned off from corporational economies due to workplace stress, exhaustion, malnutrition and worst of all, worker discontent. Raising the minimum wage can provide laborers with resources, such as food and shelter, that they need in order to adequately support their families, and provide themselves with ease. This, in return, improves worker mood and concentration, improving the quality and efficiency of the products made. With workers feeling fulfilled, there seem to be less work related accidents meaning less worker compensation as well as less employees leaving the companies. Raising the minimum wage thus strengthens business profits for large corporations by scaling up their revenue.

Overall, raising the minimum wage would be beneficial to everyone living in the United States. Not only would it reduce poverty, but it would progres our nation's economics. Although increasing the minimum wage is seen to disrupt the peaceful continuity of large businesses, it is vital to realize that increased wages would only help these companies by expanding production efficiency and speed. Today, our nation faces a huge debt issue that touches all classes of the social and economic hierarchy. If we raise minimum wages, we can help this great country rise once again, and free ourselves from the burdens of poverty and turmoil. As the greatest nation on the face of the planet, the United States shouldn't be failing to such a simple crisis. If we are destined to solve this traumatic problem, we must unite, and attack this

beast at its feet. We must aid the very workers and laborers who comprise the infrastructure and framework our societies lie on. Together we must rise, and together we must fight back. Together, we must raise the minimum wage.

### Mentor Documents:

The article from the New York Times provides a coherent, and well developed argument supporting the notion that minimum wage should be implemented in order to benefit our societies. The author delivers this sage argument by primarily focusing on logical appeals. He implements numerous amounts of credible statistics and facts which have been accurately backed up by reliable sources. Not only does this provide a sense of trust between the reader and the author, but it also creates logical reasoning to support his argument. I employed this particular style in my editorial by reasoning by side through the use of facts. This way I was able to illustrate my credibility on this topic, as well as logically argue my position.

I was also influenced by the author's choice of diction, and the voice of his argument. For example, the author illustrated a variety of word choice that enhanced the flavor and diversity of his sentences which provided fluidity and interest to the author, as the whole passage was able to casually flow into the audience's thoughts, like gentle waves rippling on a calm beach. By writing with a diverse vocabulary, I was able to captivate the reader with exciting phrasing and facts to retain my audience's attention, and ultimately form connections with their thoughts. By appreciating my sense of writing as well as the logicals and ethological persuasion, I was able to accurately convey my argument.

[https://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/09/opinion/sunday/the-case-for-a-higher-minimum-wage.html?\\_r=1](https://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/09/opinion/sunday/the-case-for-a-higher-minimum-wage.html?_r=1)

The next source from which I derived my editorial off of was an article written by Salon editors. This text primarily focused on the emotional aspects of rhetoric and used stylistic language in order to convey imagery and appeal to the reader's emotion. For example, the author illustrates that "hard-working people have been clobbered" by a murderous financial crisis they didn't create. By portraying workers as those who have been exploited and unnecessarily harmed, the author is able to entice emotions of sorrow and sympathy from the readers in order to activate their engagement in supporting the minimum wage.

The author also organized the structure of his article by listing paragraph of different supporting arguments of minimum wage. Within these supporting details, the author also used facts and statistics to provide concrete evidence of the issues we face every day.

I employed the author's particular voice and style of writing by creating comparisons of the national debt crisis to a brute creature and relied on transfer to connect this crisis with fear and hatred. By providing my audience with information along with emotions which they can grasp, I was able to strengthen my ideas through core arguments strengthened by emotional feelings, which allows the reader to side with my argument

[http://www.salon.com/2012/07/30/top\\_5\\_reasons\\_why\\_raising\\_the\\_minimum\\_wage\\_is\\_good\\_for\\_you\\_and\\_me\\_salpart/](http://www.salon.com/2012/07/30/top_5_reasons_why_raising_the_minimum_wage_is_good_for_you_and_me_salpart/)