THE FIGHT OR FOLLY FOR $15

In preparation for your small group discussion, you will watch videos that contain arguments for and against the minimum wage, review data to fact-check the claims made in these videos, and write a conclusion based on your analysis.

Step 1: List the Arguments/Claims on Both Sides

Watch some videos about the minimum wage debate. As you watch these videos, in the table below, list **a minimum of THREE DIFFERENT Arguments/Claims** made in the videos both for and against the minimum wage in the appropriate column (six claims total). Do not use your own arguments. Take them from the videos. **Make sure you are putting the argument in the CORRECT column.** Sometimes students put a "pro" argument in the "con" column or vice versa.

Videos

The Economist: The History of the Minimum Wage Debate
Learn Liberty: A $15 Minimum Wage Would Hurt Those It's Meant to Help
Washington Post: Minimum Wage Debate – The Arguments For and Against Raising It to $15
VlogBrothers: Should We Raise the Minimum Wage?
Jacob Clifford: Top Misconceptions about Minimum Wage

Step 2: Fact Check Those Arguments/Claims

Keep in mind that people making these arguments/claims all have their own biases and motivations, which may lead to misleading arguments based on misrepresentations or cherry-picking of data. **It's important you go beyond the argument to fact-check their claims with non-partisan data so that you have a well-informed opinion!**

Also, keep your own tendency for confirmation bias in mind. What side of the debate do you tend to be on? How might that cloud your reasoning?

Use data to fact-check the various arguments and claims from the videos. You **MUST** use reliable non-partisan data sources (government reports, peer-reviewed research articles, university websites). Do not cite foundations you know nothing about or random websites—Google them with the word "bias" if you're unsure. When in doubt, always trace a statistic back to its original source and evaluate it for bias and credibility.

Regardless of whether you are using a source provided on D2L or outside of D2L, for each fact, you should **provide a hyperlink** to whatever data source used to fact-check a claim. If you cite from a multi-page document, provide the page number for the quote or statistic. **You may NOT cite the videos from Step 1 as your source.** Whenever possible, cite unbiased, raw data sources.

In the **Datum Description** column, briefly describe the datum that pertains to that argument/claim and provide the hyperlink underneath. In the ✓ or ✗ column, mark whether this datum supports (✓) or refutes (✗) that argument/claim. You can just copy and paste these symbols into the table.

You can see that I've provided a couple of **examples** in the table. Note:

- Each datum description uses **numbers.**
- Each datum description provides statistics that are **directly related** to the claim they are supporting/refuting (apples-to-apples comparisons).
- Each datum description provides a **working hyperlink** to its source. Include a page number for multi-page documents.
- The first data description is just copied and pasted text.
- The second data description required that I succinctly **summarize statistics from a graph**.

Step 3: Form Your Conclusion

Only after you have completed Steps 1 and 2, in the spaces below each question, write your conclusions based on your analysis. Be thorough and systematic, not disorganized.

1. **Should the federal minimum wage be raised to $15 per hour? If so, why? Explain your position using what you learned in the activity, NOT personal experience. Support your opinion with DATA.**
   a. If not, would you rather (a) raise it higher than $15 per hour, (b) raise it but lower than $15, (c) keep it at $7.25, (d) or get rid of the federal minimum wage altogether (e.g., leave it for states to determine their own minimum wage). Explain your choice using DATA.

2. **How effectively would raising the minimum wage alleviate poverty in the United States? Considering our limited time and resources, should we make it a policy priority, or should we prioritize other policies that you think would be more effective at reducing poverty? Again, make sure you cite information that you reviewed during the activity to support your opinion.**

**The examples about dogs/cats and social media are just to help you understand the assignment. Please delete them before submitting.*

PRO *Yes! Raise the federal minimum to $15 per hour!*			**CON** *No! Let the free market decide wages! Keep it at $7.25!*		
Argument/Claim	**Datum Description**	✓ or ✗	**Argument/Claim**	**Datum Description**	✓ or ✗
*People like dogs more than cats.	25.4% of households in America own cats. 38.4% of American households own a dog. source	✓			
*Young people spend more time on social media than older people.	Kids and adults younger than 25 spent less than 50 or fewer minutes on social media per day, whereas adult age groups over 25 years old spent more than 50 minutes on social media per day. source	✗			