

30 Days: Minimum Wage Video Questions

The purpose of this activity is to take a modern day look at the progressive struggle to help people live a better life. Whether it was the notion of abolishing child labor, giving women the right to vote or forcing businesses to create safe working environments, the fight to ensure a better life for our citizens still continues today. Millions of Americans still live every day not knowing if they are going to eat or if they will have enough money to pay for rent. Many believe the solution is to raise the minimum wage which is currently \$7.25 an hour nationwide (Federal) and \$11.25 an hour in Oregon (State)

In your “Activities & Homework” section please complete the following questions. Be sure to write in complete in detailed sentences in order to receive full credit.

- 1) In 3-4 sentences explain what type of apartment they were able to afford. What were they able to rent on minimum wage? What were some of the issues with some of the apartments they looked at but didn't rent.
- 2) In 3-4 sentences explain what “type” of jobs you saw them applying for? What jobs did they ultimately get.
- 3) In 3-4 sentences explain why Morgan's girlfriend (Alex) is so tired and cranky after the first couple of days of work.

Stop the video for 10 minutes to let students begin answering these questions

- 4) When Morgan and Alex needed some furniture they found a “Free Furniture & Supply” store for people that don't make a lot of money. In 3-4 sentences tell me about a time when you helped somebody less fortunate than you or went out of your way to truly help somebody.
- 5) In 3-4 sentences explain why the couple starts arguing so much. Why is the girlfriend Alex so stressed out when the kids come to visit?
- 6) In 3-4 sentences explain how the couple celebrates Alex's birthday. Then explain how a good day suddenly turns into a bad day.
- 7) In 5-8 sentences tell me what you think the solution to getting people out of poverty is? Will raising the minimum wage help? What do we do for those that can't afford to pay rent, go see a doctor and sometimes even put food on the table? Often times these people want to work but are unable to find a job that will help them “maintain the bare minimum standard of living” What is the solution.