

Economics: A Christian Worldview – Short Films:
“Classic Stossel: Minimum Wage” & “Pelosi’s Double Standard on the Minimum Wage”

(TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY)

Purpose

In these films, effects of minimum wage hikes and politicians’ hypocrisy on the issue are explored.

Time

15-20 minutes

Instructions

1. Play the short film “**Classic Stossel: Minimum Wage**” (4:33) for students:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1ZekL41BsE>

2. Ask students for their thoughts. Then ask these questions:

- What happened to business owners and unskilled/teenaged workers when higher minimum wage laws went into effect?

Business owners quit hiring (or lowered hiring of) those without experience. Gas stations and construction companies no longer hire inexperienced employees, or hire many fewer. Teen unemployment increased.

- What does the national park example show, besides the fact that inexperienced employees lost jobs?

It made the experience worse and less personable for tourists, because now friendly employees don’t tell visitors about the parks and offer smiles; automated kiosks took their place. These kinds of laws have unintended consequences; this time they made the touring experience worse for consumers.

- What has happened to unemployment in states that raised the minimum wage?

It has increased.

- What is incorrect about the claim that with no minimum wage laws employers would pay employees practically zero?

Employees have choices, similar to employers. If they want to attract competent employees, businesses have to compete by paying higher wages.

- What did you think about the last interviewee, who said that if businesses can’t make money paying employees a higher minimum wage, then they “probably don’t have the best business model”?

AWW.

3. Play the short film “**Pelosi’s Double Standard on the Minimum Wage**” (7:05) for students:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8pFC3LKMIQo>

4. Ask students for their thoughts. These should be very entertaining!