SHOULD COLORADO RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE?

Students will be able to
• understand what the minimum wage is and the reasons why the US has a minimum wage.
• understand points of view of relevant stakeholders.
• recognize arguments in favor of and in opposition to raising the minimum wage.
• take a position on the appropriate minimum wage for the local community.

NOTE:
*Several cities and communities across the county have raised their minimum wage higher than the state level. In Colorado cities are forbidden by state law to do so. Teachers may choose to explore this issue along with the overall question of raising the minimum wage.
Minimum wage background information

Minimum wage is the lowest daily or monthly amount that employers may legally pay workers.

There are benefits and drawbacks of a minimum wage.

As you watch the brief film, identify two stakeholders from the film who want a higher minimum wage and two stakeholders from the film who do not want a higher minimum wage.
As you read, identify 3 arguments in favor of and 3 arguments in opposition to raising the minimum wage.

Write down evidence (statistics, examples, quotes, etc.) to support the arguments.

What new questions do you have?
Debate procedure

- **ROUND 1:** Speaker 1 from each side has 1 minute to present the team’s claim and outline supporting evidence. (Take notes on the arguments by the opposing side.)

- **ROUND 2:** Speaker 2 addresses the opposing team’s arguments and makes additional arguments that can be supported by evidence from the texts.

- **ROUND 3:** Speaker 3 presents a closing argument that restates your position and summarizes the main points.

Resolution: Colorado should raise the minimum wage.
Resolution: Colorado should raise the minimum wage.
Debate guidelines

- Speak to your peers, not just teacher.
- When you state an opinion, back it up with evidence.
- Avoid interrupting and talking over others.
- Listen carefully to the speaker and take notes so you can respond to their ideas.
- Feel free to disagree, but show respect for others' ideas.
- After each speaking round, teams have 3 minutes to work together to prepare counterarguments for the points raised.

Resolution: Colorado should raise the minimum wage.
Resolution: Colorado should raise the minimum wage.
Debrief

- What was the best argument of each side? Why were those arguments powerful?
- Were the views of your side easy or hard to argue? Explain why.
- How did the debate add to or change your thinking about the topic?
- Is there anything that you would change to improve the debate process?