

6. Write a Clear Thesis (notebook)

Elements:

1. Your thesis must answer the prompt.
2. Your thesis must provide a clear guide for the rest of your essay.
3. Your thesis needs to “take a side.”
4. You will need to be able to “prove” your thesis, so make sure it is something that can be supported with evidence. You should include reasons your thesis is correct in the statement.

6. Create Your Thesis (packet)

- ▶ Use the frame sentences below and write your thesis in various ways:
 - 1. Congress **should/should not** raise the minimum wage because _____ and _____.
 - 2. Some may say _____, but Congress **should/should not** raise the minimum wage because...
 - 3. Although _____, Congress **should/should not** raise the minimum wage. Two reasons they **should/should not** are _____, and _____.
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- ▶ Take 10 minutes of class time to write your thesis statements. You must write all three and choose your best.
 - ▶ Once you have written and selected your thesis, check in with Mr. Spaulding. You will not be able to continue with your essay until you complete this step.

7. Identify Counter-Claims (notebook)

Steps:

1. Refer back to your brainstorm (step 2) where you already identified evidence for the counter claim(s).
2. Just like for your side, organize the evidence to find one or two reasons for the claims from the other side.

7. Counter-Claims Chart (packet)

Make this chart for the opposite side of the minimum wage argument.

Counter Claim: People under 18 should be allowed to have and use cellphones.

Reason	Evidence
1. Stay in contact with parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phones provide easy contact between parents and young people• They can be used for rides, emergencies, and convenience• They make parents feel in control and as if their children are safer
2. Internet connected phones are good for school	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students might have no other readily available internet connection• Web searches could be a valuable learning tool• Most teens today access the web through smart phones

Example

8. Write Your Introduction (notebook)

Elements:

1. **A hook- A means of engaging your audience in the argument (Why is this important?)**
2. **The context of the argument: background, situation, people involved (What or who does this affect?)**
3. **Narrowing to your specific argument (What specifically will you be addressing? What will your argument be about (without making the claim)?)**
4. **Thesis (What are you claiming?)**
5. **Plan of Attack: 2-3 reasons that your Thesis is correct. This should be done if you wrote a strong thesis statement.**