

**16****Evaluating Evidence**

**Directions:** Read the boxed editorial. Then use it to answer the questions.

Congress must immediately raise the minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$6.65. Today, a full-time, minimum-wage worker makes just \$10,712 a year. That puts him or her well below the poverty line for a family of three, according to Alan Green, head of the antipoverty group Empower. A raise in the hourly rate would help these working-poor people stay even with the rising cost of living.

The business community generally opposes a raise in the minimum wage. According to the Business Council, a ten-percent increase in the minimum wage would cause the loss of 100,000 jobs nationwide. Small businesses cannot afford to pay low-skilled workers more, it claims.

The economic evidence doesn't support this claim though. Raising the minimum wage has little or no effect on employment. That's what Robert Solow, a Nobel Prize-winning economist, said in a *New York Times* article. Another study by Princeton economist Alan Krueger came to the same conclusion.

Perhaps you think minimum-wage workers are always teenagers. Actually, most are adults, aged 20 and over. As the main breadwinners of their families, they need to earn more. That's why we must increase the minimum wage.

1. In a sentence, state the editorial writer's main opinion.  
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2. How does the writer document the fact that a full-time minimum-wage worker is below the poverty line?  
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3. What fact does the writer document in paragraph 3?  
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4. What fact in paragraph 4 is *not* documented? How might you check that fact?  
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5. How well does the writer support the main opinion in this editorial? Explain.  
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