Fighting for Higher Wages

Luz Elias

**BEFORE YOU READ:** Interpret the signs in the images. What is going on in these two photos? Restate the signs in your own words. How would higher pay make New York stronger? Discuss the difference between bargaining and begging.

**Desperate to Earn More**

There are many people in this country who are desperate to earn what they need. Some people are on a career pathway, and they might earn more money as they get more education and training. But what happens in the meantime? And what about those who can’t take the time to get more education and training? They should be able to earn a living wage too!

**Three Ways to Fight**

More people would be earning a living wage if the minimum wage were higher. This is an important issue for everyone in the USA because we need enough money to survive and be happy. But how do we fight to increase the minimum wage?

There are many ways people can fight to increase the minimum wage. First, we should read articles about politics and learn about the arguments for and against increasing the minimum wage. Second, we should understand the role of unions in helping to improve wages. We should support unions and fight for laws and regulations that benefit unions. Third, we can join community groups that support workers’ rights and fight to increase the minimum wage.

**More to Gain than to Lose**

If everyone who is able comes together, then we are going to gain new experiences for the future and be ready to fight right away, we are going to gain new experiences for the future and be ready to keep fighting.

**AFTER YOU READ:** Research the three ways to fight. Find out 1) the pro and con arguments regarding increasing the minimum wage, 2) how a union improves wages, and 3) how community groups fight to increase wages.

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