Using logic,
Using sources
Developing Academic Writing
It is obvious to anyone thinking logically that minimum wage should be increased. The current minimum wage is an insult and is unfair to the people who receive it. The fact that the last proposed minimum wage increase was denied is proof that the government of this state is crooked and corrupt. The only way for them to prove otherwise is to raise minimum wage immediately. (Weber & Brizee 2012)
Writing with logic

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Nothing is ‘proved’; it’s only stated.
No evidence is offered.
If I don’t already agree with you, you won’t convince me.
Writing with logic

P1.

P2.

C. Minimum wage should be increased.
Writing with logic

P1. Minimum wage should keep workers out of poverty.

P2. Current minimum wage does not do that.

C. Minimum wage should be increased.
Writing with logic

Section 1: Evidence or appeal to make people agree with premise 1*

P1. Minimum wage should keep workers out of poverty.

*Note: Since this is not objectively true, a reader could disagree.
Writing with logic

Section 2: Empirical evidence to show that premise 2 is true

P2. Current minimum wage does not keep workers out of poverty.
Writing with logic

Section 3: Conclusion. Show how (normative) premise 1 and (true) premise 2 support the conclusion.

C. Minimum wage should be increased.
Writing with logic

The purpose of minimum wage is to ensure that workers can provide basic amenities to themselves and their families. When workers live below the poverty line, their families suffer and they do not contribute to society. Unfortunately, our minimum wage no longer reflects an increasing cost of living. At minimum wage, a full-time worker earns about ¥1,560,000 per year. The poverty rate is currently ¥2,160,000 per year. It is therefore possible to work full time and still live below the poverty line. In order to remedy this problem, minimum wage must be increased. (Adapted from Weber & Brizee 2012. Portions changed.)
Writing with logic

**P1**
The purpose of minimum wage is to ensure that workers can provide basic amenities to themselves and their families. When workers live below the poverty line, their families suffer and they do not contribute to society. Unfortunately, our minimum wage no longer reflects an increasing cost of living.

**P2**
At minimum wage, a full-time worker earns about ¥1,560,000 per year. The poverty rate is currently ¥2,160,000 per year. It is therefore possible to work full time and still live below the poverty line.

**C**
In order to remedy this problem, minimum wage must be increased. (Adapted from Weber & Brizee 2012. Portions changed.)
Using Sources

1. Evidence that agrees with your thesis
   • Facts to support your premises
   • Similar conclusions, which you will add to
   • Facts that support a conclusion similar to yours

2. Evidence that contradicts your thesis (counter-evidence)
   • Alternate conclusion that might explain your facts
     • Argue why that alternative is not correct
     • Argue why your alternative is more likely
Sources do not speak for themselves

• State your claim (thesis, etc.)

• Give your evidence
  • Data from your research
  • Quotes from sources

• Explain how the evidence supports the claim
Sources do not speak for themselves

• Ineffective, weak use (WTS 2010)

  • Today, we are too self-centered. "We are consumers-on-the-run . . . the very notion of the family meal as a sit-down occasion is vanishing. Adults and children alike eat . . . on the way to their next activity" (Gleick 148). Everything is about what we want.
Sources do not speak for themselves

• More effective, stronger use (WTS 2010)
• Today, Americans are too self-centered. Even our families don't matter as much any more as they once did. Other people and activities take precedence, as James Gleick says in his book, Faster. "We are consumers-on-the-run . . . the notion of the family meal as a sit-down occasion is vanishing. Adults and children alike eat . . . on the way to their next activity" (148). Sit-down meals are a time to share and connect with others; however, that connection has become less valued, as families begin to prize individual activities over shared time, promoting self-centeredness over group identity.
Sources do not speak for themselves

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  • Today, Americans are too self-centered. Even our families don't matter as much any more as they once did. Other people and activities take precedence, as James Gleick says in his book, Faster. "We are consumers-on-the-run . . . the very notion of the family meal as a sit-down occasion is vanishing. Adults and children alike eat . . . on the way to their next activity" (148). Sit-down meals are a time to share and connect with others; however, that connection has become less valued, as families begin to prize individual activities over shared time, promoting self-centeredness over group identity.
What is a synthesis?

• An idea drawn from more than one source
  • Understand (be able to summarize) the sources
  • Analyze the relationships among them
  • Create a new idea by combining the sources
“Explanatory synthesis”

• Summary and evaluation (basically)
  • Understand the sources
  • Summarize their similarities and differences

• Not very interesting, but sometimes necessary
“Argument synthesis”

• Understand the sources & their relationships
• Create a thesis (a new idea) based on them
  • Argue for the thesis
  • Select best evidence for your thesis from the sources
  • Be sure to cite the sources in your writing
**Synthesis matrix**

- Using a matrix chart can help stay organized
  - Write your sources
  - Note the main ideas from each source
  - The chart shows similarities, differences easily

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**Topic________________________**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Source 1</th>
<th>Source 2</th>
<th>Source 3</th>
<th>Source 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Idea A</td>
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<td>Idea B</td>
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<td><strong>Alteration of women’s</strong></td>
<td>- Women credited the WASP program for opening doors</td>
<td>- WAAC was 1st chance to serve in army</td>
<td>- Women given equal opportunities</td>
<td>- Women born in 1920s found new doors open to them</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>roles WWII</strong></td>
<td>- Women could compete with men as equals</td>
<td>- Needs of the war were so great women’s traditional roles were ignored</td>
<td>- Women joined workforce</td>
<td>- Even women not directly involved were changing</td>
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<td>- Women’s success at flying aircraft “marked a pivotal step”</td>
<td>- The 1940s brought more opportunities</td>
<td>- Unconscious decision to cross male-dominated roles</td>
<td>- War brought intellectual expansion</td>
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<td>- Seized these new opportunities</td>
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<td><strong>Hardship women faced</strong></td>
<td>- Male pilots resented women’s presence</td>
<td>- Women discriminated against, ridiculed, considered inferior</td>
<td>- Women given inferior roles</td>
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<td>- “The WASP were routinely assigned inferior positions”</td>
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<td>- Women given less significant jobs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Discrimination at every level</td>
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<td>- More traditionally male jobs resisted integration</td>
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<td>- Military questioned women’s ability</td>
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<td>- Equal pay rarely given</td>
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<td>- First to be let go</td>
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<td><strong>WWII did not affect</strong></td>
<td>- Women in untraditional roles during war, but back to subservient roles after the war</td>
<td>- Women were not affected because they remained in subordinate positions after the war.</td>
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<td><strong>women</strong></td>
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