Name: _____ Date: _____

Informational Pretest

Directions: Read the next selection and answer each question.

Walkouts and protests by fast-food workers demanding higher wages and the right to join a union began last November and spread to 60 cities nationwide at the end of August. First, let's dispense with some of the nonsense that people have been told about these workers: they are not mostly teenagers. The majority are at least 23 and only 30 percent are teenagers, and more than a quarter of them is raising at least one child. How are they suppose to survive on about $9 an hour - their average wage - with many making the current federal minimum of just $7.25? Obviously, they are not just there for a little while before advancing to higher-paying jobs with benefits. Our terrible economy is not producing enough decent jobs to which they could move. Fast-food workers are suffering for the same reasons that the majority of employees have lost ground for decades: the rules of the economy have been rewritten against them.

If the federal minimum wage had increased since 1968 the way it did in prior decades. It would be $17 per hour today. Not a meager $7.25. The broken link between productivity and wages is due to the fact that most workers have lost bargaining power. That is a result of intentional "reforms," including weakening of labor unions, international "trade" agreements that put blue-collar workers into serious competition with cheaper labor overseas, and many other policy changes that redistribute income up towards the rich.

This kind of mass organizing and protesting around domestic economic issues has not been seen for a long time, perhaps since the Great Depression. Maybe we should make politicians understand that we are sick and tired of an economy that delivers the goods to fewer and richer people each year, and leaves tens of millions of people struggling to get by.

1. What do you think this selection is mainly about?

_____
_____
_____

2. Which sentence in the selection best describes the author's attitude towards wages? Explain.

_____
_____
_____

3.

"Walkouts and protests by fast-food workers demanding higher wages and the right to join a union began last November and spread to 60 cities nationwide at the end of August."

What is the correct way to write the sentence above?

_____
_____
_____

Answer Key - Pre/Post Test - Week 8 Term 1

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1	Open-ended	#30, STAAR 2016
2	Open-ended	#24, STAAR 2015
3	Open-ended	#16, STAAR 2016

LIVEWORKSHEETS