

Good argumentative essay on are actors and professional athletes paid too much

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Introduction

People go to work and fulfill their duties and responsibilities expecting that their employer would compensate their efforts with salary in the form of money and other perks and privileges such as insurance coverage and eligibility to be included in some government-sponsored public and social services programs. Whenever a person looks for a job, however, his choice would almost always be affected by this one thing: money. People would naturally be inclined to accept a job offer that promises to pay them periodically with more money compared to one that offers a lower salary. This reaction or behavior is nothing but natural unless the person is already well-off and does not need money in his life or are just too passionate with his job. Nonetheless, it almost always boils to money. There are lots of types of work out there. Entry level works in restaurants and supermarkets, for example, pay a significant amount of money in minimum wage levels. Minimum wage levels vary from state to state. In recent months, the United States' Labor Department has made moves to bring the federal minimum wage levels to 10. 10 USD an hour. This has already been signed as an executive order by the current president, Barack Obama in February of the year 2014. To establish a baseline measure on salary, it would be important to have several points of comparison. In this case, our baseline measure would be the salary of minimum wage workers since their income would be the lowest one we could compare the income of athletes and celebrities with.

According to studies, a worker earning minimum wage rates' income should be able to fulfill the basic needs of at least three people including the person

who works . This is why the term minimum wage is often used interchangeably with the term living wage. By saying basic we mean needs that include shelter, clothing, food and nutrition, health, transport, and minimal recreation. In most cases, any other needs that are not included in our brief list would require additional income, if the person spending the money ever plans to make both ends meet and at the same time, stay out of debt .

Suppose a person, a minimum wage earner, works for eight hours a week which would be an equivalent of 40 hours a week. This means that in a 52 week year, this person would work for at least 2, 080 hours. This excludes holidays, sick leaves, and vacation leaves in order for us to simplify the computation. A person with a minimum wage level of income who works for 2, 080 hours a year would earn a little over 21, 000 USD. This product excludes bonuses and other incentives in order for us to simplify the computation. Additionally, according to studies, this 21, 000 USD, the so called, minimum wage or in some cases, living wage can allegedly support the basic needs of at least three people including the breadwinner.

What about athletes and professional actors? How much more or less do these people earn compared to people with minimum wage levels of income.

It is important to take note of the fact that there is no uniform or standardized salary for athletes. In general, an athlete's salary would depend on his skills, his popularity, his experience, and of course, his ability to contribute to the team, to win games, and in more ambitious cases, to help the team win championships. The same is true for professional actors and

celebrities. An actor or a celebrity's salary would mainly depend on his popularity, and his acting, singing, and or dancing skills, and on a lesser extent, his work ethics. In this case, for use to establish a more reliable comparison, we are going to use the average annual income of athletes and celebrities. In sports, an athlete's salary may also depend on the sport he is playing and of course, the league in which he or she is playing. According to Yahoo Sports (2014), " the average NBA player made 5. 15 million USD in salary in 2010 to 2011 which was easily the highest average salary of the four major sports leagues in the U. S." . In Major League Baseball (MLB), the average annual salary was 3. 31 million USD. This value came from the average salary of over 750 professional MLB players, including the highest and lowest paid ones. For players of the National Hockey League (NHL), the average salary was 2. 4 million USD; this value was obtained from the average salary of over 650 professional NHL players. For the National Football League (NFL), the average player salary was at 1. 9 million USD; this value was obtained from the average salary of over 1, 700 NFL players. For the sake of comparison, the average salary of professional NFL players will be used to represent the average annual salary of athletes.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2010, there were over 66, 500 professional actors that have been employed in the United States and they were paid an average hourly wage of 17. 44 USD . Annually, an average professional actor should earn about 37, 000 USD a year. This value may be surprisingly low considering the fact that people often see some well-off Hollywood actors easily make a couple of millions after acting out a major role in a single box office hit movie. The truth about this value is that there

are a significant number of actors who earn a lot more or less than this average value. Tom Cruise, the lead actor in the movie Mission Impossible, for example, made 75 million USD between 2011 and 2012; Leonardo DiCarpio has been reported to earn as much as 20 million USD per movie. In summary, an average person in the United States who earns a minimum wage level of income earns 21, 000 USD a year, more or less; a professional athlete earns between 1. 9 million USD and 5. 5 million USD a year; a professional actor should earn about 37, 000 USD annually. At this point, the author of this paper would like to state his position that average professional actors are not overpaid and that professional athletes are. Employed people who are neither athletes nor actors and or actresses who are at the same time top-earners in their fields could easily make more than 100, 000 USD annually. An accountant or an allied medical worker in the U. S. could earn as much as 130, 000 USD annually. This value is not a far cry from the average annual income value of actresses. If we compare this to the average annual income of athletes, the lowest of which is 1. 9 million USD for NFL players, the gap in salary becomes obvious, just like how the fact that professional athletes are overpaid becomes obvious too.

Some people may suggest the opposite—that athletes are not overpaid based on the grounds that they should be paid significantly higher because they have special skills that other people do not have and that the rarity of such skill is one of the main determinants of their salary. The truth, however, is that despite the presence of such determinant, it still does not makes sense to pay an athlete millions of dollars more than what an average American worker receives for over 2, 000 supervised work hours annually.

Conclusion

In summary, the author of this paper concludes that on average, professional actors and actresses are not overpaid. Sure, there are professional actors and actresses that easily earn millions of dollars a year from a movie a two but the percentage of these high earning actors and actresses are so small to make a huge difference on the average earnings of actors and actresses. It is the professional athletes who are overpaid because their average annual salary ranges from 1. 9 million USD to 5. 5 million USD, which is a far cry from what average professional actors and average minimum wage workers (21, 000 USD annually) make.

Works Cited

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