

8th Grade Argumentative: Penny

Task Prompt: Write an argumentative essay about the economic pros and cons of producing and using pennies in the United States. Make sure to address potential counterarguments in your essay and support your claim with information from the sources you have examined.

Penny for your Thoughts

I believe that the penny should be abolished due to the hassles involved in using it I have three reasons as to why I believe this: the penny costs more to make than it is worth, the penny takes up a lot of people's time in stores, and abolishing the penny could actually save people money.

I had never known this, but the US actually loses about \$100 million a year due to the cost of the metals used in making pennies being worth more than the penny itself. It is not only the cost of the metals in pennies that costs our country, but the fact that nobody actually uses pennies much in their everyday life. All the pennies people get in their transactions a stores just end up at the bottom of their couch. This does not help the overall finances of this country.

Pennies dont only affect the overall wealth of this nation but the individual wealth as well. This being the time it takes someone to whip out thirty pennies instead of six nickels, this could cost people time away from their job. And, as MIT scientist Jeff Gore found out, the average person spends 2.4 hours fiddling with pennies at store counters every year; which at the average wages amounts, this could mean \$50 dollars lost each year. Which may not sound like much, but it can add up when you think about it

One major issue people have with getting rid of the penny is that it cause prices to be rounded up and then costumers will have to pay more. Maybe they havn't thought about the possibility that prices would round down. I am sure we have all experienced that sort of person who is always looking for a way to save themselves money; even if the coupon or deal is only saving them a few cents or a dollar. Well, getting rid of the penny could save many people money, even if it is only four or so vents.

I must say that getting rid of the penny would cause the end of something that has been a very big part of this country for a long time. All of the currency in this country are very iconic peices of history and to retire the penny would be sad Also, it is true that the penny had more uses as a charity item then anything else, but maybe we could figure out a way to reimburse people who still own pennies after they were abolished.

In the end, I believe it would be best for the countries wealth and prosperity to abolish the penny. In doing so, the country would save hundreds of millions of dollar s, save people time, and save the

general public tens of dollars a year. I hope those of you reading this can understand the reasons I have for wanting the penny gone and can agree with me, so we can get something done about this issue.