

# Answers to Questions

## LETTER ACTIVITY ONE

### 1. Why do you think Mr. Bronson is writing to the Congressman?

Students should understand that Mr. Bronson was providing evidence that would convince the congressman to vote for an amendment to the FLSA to exempt tobacco bag stringers from the minimum wage requirement.

### 2. Why is his position significant?

Answers will vary. He gives examples of how advantageous tobacco bag stringing is to the workers.

### 3. How does he attempt to support his position?

Students may wonder if there are actually no workers under the age of 18. They may also be skeptical as to whether doctors really prescribed tobacco bag stringing for people with nervous dispositions. He makes the job sound too good to be true – a true pleasure for those that choose to do the work.

### 4. Are there possible examples of bias in this excerpt? Why might they be bias? Support your answer.

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### 1. Why did Mr. Bronson include this section of the report in his letter to Congressman Barden?

Most likely Mr. Bronson wanted to use a federal report on the poverty in the South to bolster his position on the need for the amendment.

### 2. Why was the South in such bad economic shape in 1938? In 1929?

This question requires connection to knowledge outside the passage. In 1938 the South had been in the Depression years for nearly ten years. As agriculture had been negatively affected during the 1920s, much of the South had been seen downturns in

economic prosperity even before the Stock Market Crash in 1929.

**3. How does this information strengthen the argument he is making to the Congressman?**

Mr. Bronson was able to use the federal report to show that the South was dealing with extreme poverty. He makes a case that even the little amount of money earned by tobacco bag stringing was extremely important to the families of the workers.

**4. Does this show the same bias as the previous excerpt? Why or why not?**

This shows less bias than the previous passage. This was taken from a statistical report from a federal agency to the President of the United States.

**5. Which excerpt would you choose to present to the Congress in support of the proposed amendment? Why?**

Students may vary in their answers to this question. The teacher should accept either excerpt as long as the students have a reasoned argument about their choice. It would also lead to a good discussion between those who favor one with those who favor the other.