**“Inequality for All”**

**Featuring former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich**

Video is available at the following link:

<https://oakton.sharestream.net/ssdcms/ip.do?u=deddfd53d541478>

I recommend that you copy and paste the url into Mozilla Firefox browser outside of D2L. Mozilla is a free download. Be sure your pop-up blocker is turned off. You will be prompted to login with your OCC ID and password.

It is also available via Netflix, or in Oakton’s Media Services, Rm 1815, or on campus in any OCC computer lab via Oakton Vision: <https://video.oakton.edu/>.

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Please BE SURE THAT YOUR ANSWERS ARE LEGIBLE AND COGENT. If I cannot understand it, points will be lost.**

1. **Imagine for a moment that we have a magic genie at our disposal.** If the genie snaps his fingers, the economy will expand 25% but 90% of the new income and wealth will go to the richest 5% of the people in the country; the remaining 10% of the new income and wealth will be distributed among the rest of the population. Should he snap his fingers?
   1. Yes No
   2. Why for and/or against? (.5 point)
2. **Per Reich, what makes an economy stable?** (.25 point)
3. **Nick Hanauer (owner of the Pillow business).** 
   1. What is Nick concerned about with regards to increasing concentration of wealth at the top of society? (NOTE: Be sure to touch on at least one concern for his own business and one larger concern in terms of the overall economy.) (1 point)
   2. Does Nick believe that the top 1% are “job creators”? Yes\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ (.25 point).
   3. According to Nick and Reich, what helps ensure a “free market”? (.25 point)
   4. What is your opinion of Nick’s views with regard to a, b and c? Please *briefly* explain. (.5 point)
4. **Inequality is widening when the economy is growing and productivity is up.** What are 3 primary causes for the widening gap in income and wealth according to Reich? For each, briefly describe *how they contribute* to the widening gap. (3 points)
5. **What were the three ways that middle-class Americans coped with “The Great Regression”** (i.e., the widening income and wealth gap) over the past three decades? (.5 points)
6. **How does growing inequality undermine democracy and the American value “equal opportunity”?** (.5 point)

1. **“History is on side of social progress.”** What examples does Reich give to illustrate that we have historically taken steps to reduce inequality when it threatens American values? Name at least 2 programs or policies. (1 point)
2. **Many in society think we are currently in a period of “snap-back” – that is, that we are taking steps to reduce inequality.** What do you think about this; are we? Why or why not? (Be sure to give at least one concrete example to support your perspective in your response.) (1 point)
3. **To deal with widening income and wealth inequality Reich makes several suggestions, including social, economic and/or political solutions or policies.** 
   1. Identity 2 of them here (1 point). Be specific; a broad category is not sufficient. Include a sentence that explains what should be done in each area you cite.

* 1. What do you think we should focus on? Identify two solutions/policies & **explain** why these should be top priorities and how they will reduce inequality. (2 points)

1. **If one were interested, how would they take action to on the issue of inequality? Reich gives us a website and texting option (**[**www.inequalityforall.com**](http://www.inequalityforall.com)**). Do you plan to text or visit this site? Have you considered contacting your elected state or federal officials about this issue, or joining street protests? Why or why not? (.25 points)**