

# Contradictions in the New Work Order: Democracy or Disempowerment for the Workers?

Professor James Gee

This video focuses on the new capitalism and its implications for knowledge and education. Gee claims that the economy is in a transitional stage, and we don't know what our organizations or our economy will look like as we move from one type of capitalism to another.

After looking at old capitalism, Gee develops a picture of the future workplace, discussing what some of its paradoxes and contradictions might be. He then develops an explanation of what counts as knowledge in the new capitalism, and closes on the implications of new capitalism for education.

Professor James Paul Gee is the Tashia Morgridge Professor of Reading in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, University of Wisconsin at Madison. He is the author of:

*An Introduction to Discourse Analysis* (1999);

*The New Work Order* (with Glynda Hull & Colin Lankshear, 1996);

*Social Linguistics and Literacies* (1990, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1996);

*The Social Mind* (1992).

His work is of particular interest to educators who are being urged to spawn money-making enterprises and reform their governance along the lines of the new capitalism. The challenge for us is to understand the nature of these 'new times' and to respond to them ethically, strategically and effectively.

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