

TED Talk: Barry Schwartz – The way we think about work is broken

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Vocabulary:

Find the definition of the following words.

Word	Definition
Overwhelm (vb)	
Warehouse (n)	
Shrink (vb)	
Incentivize (vb)	
Reward (n)	
Demean (vb)	

Questions:

1. What is the main purpose of work, for people attending this talk?
2. And what would it be, for people working in factories?
3. What is the reason the speaker gives for it? Give its name and explain it shortly.
4. What is the name of “one of the fathers of Industrial Revolution”?
5. What did he say about people working in assembly lines?
6. What is the difference between theories in natural science and theories of the human nature?
7. What are the humans for Clifford Geertz?
8. Why did he say that, according to the speaker?

True or False:

1. According to “one of the fathers of Industrial Revolution”, human beings are always up and doing.
2. The speaker calls the public “masters of the universe”.

Debate:

- Do you think our way of thinking about work is as broken as the speaker says?
- What is, for you, the real purpose of work?
- If you were able, would you change (or stop) the “society of work”? If so, what would you create to replace work in order for our society to continue living?