credit to provide incentives for businesses to hire more workers and increase existing wages (Gomstyn, 2010). Increased support for Wall Street could in this way make the overall economy healthier so that everyone has increased opportunities.

Some, however, argue that raising taxes on the rich and on America's wealthy businesses is an effective means of closing the income gap. For *New York Times* columnist Bob Herbert, our economic problems are the result of bad policy decisions that have led to the rapid migration of American jobs overseas, the degradation of the American education system, and continuous costly wars. His primary point in a recent *New York Times* column was that America "does not have the common sense to raise taxes," his solution to solving inequality issues and achieving greater economic security (2010). Robert Reich and Paul Krugman concur with Herbert's analysis and recommend raising taxes (Krugman, 2007). My question for Herbert is, "Given the Great Recession and the tough economic climate that we continue to live in, would raising taxes still be the prudent thing to do?" Maybe Herbert believes that higher taxes for the rich would help solve the issue of inequality, but in reality, it would not help people achieve the American Dream at all. According to writer Dana Golden (2009), the more wealth the rich accumulate, the more they will spend it, thereby stimulating the economy. She also points out that the creation of wealth and its subsequent use is one way jobs are created, even in difficult economic times. Taxing the rich only decreases their spending potential and thus their ability to stimulate the economy.

In contrast to Herbert's bleak view, economist Cal Thomas responds to arguments about inequality issues by arguing that "The rules for achieving the American Dream may no longer be taught and supported by culture, but that doesn't mean that they don't work" (2010). Indeed, the media inundate us with