

We are the Tumblrs

By [Steve Thorngate](#)

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If you haven't been following the conversation around Occupy Wall Street, it's perhaps best summarized in terms of the [Tumblrs](#).

First there were [the 99 percent](#), who have been demonstrating in New York and elsewhere for weeks.

Then there was the backlash from the so-called [53 percent](#).

Conservative blogger Erick Erickson inaugurated this Tumblr with the claim that the 53 percent of Americans who pay federal income taxes are "subsidizing [protesters] so you can hang out on Wall Street and complain."

Of course, the other 47 percent aren't dodging income tax liability; they simply [don't have any](#) after the deductions and exemptions and credits written into the tax code. Think that should change? Okay, but call that idea what it is: [a tax hike on lower-income people](#). It's also fairly odd to use this 53/47 stat to attack Occupy Wall Street, since [a lot more people would owe federal income tax](#) if Wall Street hadn't done such a number on the economy (and thus on their incomes). Erickson's argument boils down to "[Get a job](#). How hard can it be?" Well, [pretty hard](#).

Most egregiously, 53 percent of Americans pay *federal income* tax. Everyone fortunate enough to have a job pays payroll taxes, and everyone who can afford to buy things (and doesn't live in Delaware or New Hampshire or parts of Oregon, Montana or Alaska) pays sales tax--both of which, unlike federal income tax, hit poor people hardest.

But the most fascinating of the many problems with the self-proclaimed 53 percent is this: not all of them are actually part of this group. They may work hard; they may not expect more help from the government; they may be annoyed by Occupy Wall Street. But based

on the stories they tell, [a lot of them can't possibly owe any income tax.](#)

So the next Tumblr to emerge was inevitable: "[Actually, You're the 47%.](#)" It's rather snide at times, but it makes its point.

Last but not least: "[I am the 2 percent.](#)" A good reminder that the only thing the Internet is better at than organizing people is being cute.