Neo-liberalism, knowledge and
school inspection
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Neo-liberalism
1.The power of the state should be curtailed;
2.It’s only legitimate purpose is to safeguard individual and commercial liberty, and private property;
3.Accordingly, the state should be drastically reduced in strength and size;
4.Free market mechanisms should organise all exchanges of goods and services;
5.Free markets also liberate the creative potential and the entrepreneurial spirit which is built into the
‘spontaneous order’ of any human society; and
6.Free markets create individual liberty and well-being, and a more efficient allocation of resources than
state planning.
Jenny Ozga& Christina Segerholm (2015)

Objects, ideas and elevator words • Objects; a school, a student or even an education system • Ideas; a conception, an attitude or a theory that someone has about

objects • Elevator words; neo-liberalism. Things that are thought of as facts, truth
and reality. Used to say or think something about the world. They are at a

higher level

Lindblad, Sverker & Thomas S. Popkewitz (eds) (2004) Educational

restructuring. International perspectives on travelling policies. Greenwich:

Information age publis hin g.

• Do the idea of ”elevator words” have any implications for

a. research in neo-liberal times, and

b. for your research? Or is it just semantics…? • Are there any ”double technologies” at play in your object of
study/research field?