

English 1302 Essay: THOREAU'S RHETORIC IN *CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE*

Thoreau's ground-breaking essay, *Civil Disobedience*, influenced Americans in his time and continues to inspire readers today. For an essay to gain the attention of Mohandas Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., effective rhetorical devices must be in use.

For this essay, you will analyze the rhetorical devices utilized by Henry David Thoreau in *Civil Disobedience*. Refer to *Writing Arguments* chapter eight for lessons in rhetoric. **Focus on pathos, logos, and ethos and BOLD these terms within your essay.** Structure your essay in which you separate textual support and paragraphs in relation to the three rhetorical appeals.

Your introduction must include a strong and sound thesis statement. Underline your thesis statement. Every sentence of your essay should support your thesis. Your essay will be devoted to Thoreau's rhetorical strategy. Consider what points he is asserting and what devices he uses to make those points. Give examples of Thoreau's use of all of these strategies and be specific. Every quoted and paraphrased section must have a parenthetical citation.

Conclude the essay with a restatement of your thesis (underline the restatement of your thesis) and a universal statement regarding your interpretation of the essay. This means that you find a way to relate Thoreau's words to today's society. **BOLD your universal statement within the essay.**

This three-page essay is due by _____ Meet the minimum page requirement and follow the writing mandates located in the extra help module. Create an original title, and, as always, use MLA formatting for your essay and Work Cited.

Example structure: (just an idea - you may change the order)

- I Introduction with thesis.
- II. Logos examples from the text with explanation.
- III. Pathos examples from the text with explanation.
- IV. Ethos examples from the text with explanation.
- V. Conclusion with restated thesis and universal appeal.

Work Cited (just one source = work, not works)

English 1302: "Civil Disobedience" Discussion Questions

Explain Thoreau's meaning of "That government is best which governs least."

Explain this quote: "if one were to judge these men wholly by the effects of their actions and not partly by their intentions, they would deserve to be classed and punished with those mischievous persons who put obstructions on the railroads."

Does Thoreau wish for no government?

What opposing argument does Thoreau explain regarding a wish for no government?

Explain the metaphorical governmental "machine," outlined by Thoreau.

Why is Thoreau disgraced to be associated with the American government of his day?

What game does Thoreau connect with voting? Explain the connection.

In Thoreau's opinion, why is voting not enough?

Thoreau addresses the opposing argument that it is not "a man's duty . . . to devote himself" to what?

How does this technique relate to the argument essay?

What does Thoreau "not hesitate to say" regarding paying taxes?

How does he justify this?

At the time of this writing, how long has it been since Thoreau paid taxes?

What was the consequence of Thoreau's refusal to pay?

Thoreau provides a counter-argument for anyone who believes that he is an elitist. What does he write?

Does Thoreau contradict himself at all in this essay?

Online English 1302 Essay: “Self-Reliance” Argument Summary

Ralph Waldo Emerson provides multiple arguments leading to one cohesive theme in his essay, “Self-Reliance.” Choose his argument that most strongly resonates with you for this essay assignment.

Write a one page summary of the chosen argument, while providing parenthetical citation any time that you quote or paraphrase. Review the course writing mandates before you write this essay and again before you submit it. At the end of this summary, provide one additional sentence and type it in **bold**. This last sentence is yet another summary of the same argument, but it is a one-sentence summary. See your textbook, *Writing Arguments*, p. 48 for the basis of this assignment.

Begin the essay early to avoid procrastination and to allow time for you to carefully edit and revise the essay. Adhere to all writing mandates and MLA style. Email your instructor early if you have questions about the essay. Remember that the MC Language Hub is there to help you in person and online.

English 1302 Essay: EMERSON'S *SELF-RELIANCE*

In the first paragraph of *Self-Reliance*, Emerson writes, “A man should learn to detect and watch that gleam of light which flashes across his mind from within” (19). You will attempt to share those flashes of light in your next essay.

After reading *Self-Reliance*, you will write a five-paragraph essay. For the introductory paragraph of this essay, you will provide textual support while explaining how this essay relates to fundamental Transcendental ideals. Refer back to your class lecture notes on Transcendentalism.

Next, choose three quotes that resonate with you. Rely on your *intuition*, as Emerson admonishes his readers to do. Relate those three quotes to your life and our society in one paragraph for each quote. You may use first person perspective for the writing of these paragraphs, and you may share personal anecdotes.

The final and fifth paragraph of this essay will be your reaction to the essay as a whole. Some questions for consideration are: Is self-reliance selfish or necessary? Does the essay affirm the authority of a higher being or challenge it? Should we value whim over consistency? Did this essay provide new ideas for you? (Do not answer more than one question.) React to the essay in your final paragraph in a mature and articulate manner.

Format this essay in MLA style with the exception of your three chosen quotes. See the back of this paper for an example. Remember to use one-inch margins, 12 point Times New Roman, and a Work Cited. This is the ISBN for the book that contains the copy you have read: 978-0-486-27790-5.

Name

Instructor

Course

Date

Original Title

Quote Centered and Bolded

Quote Centered and Bolded

Quote Centered and Bolded

(Two pages total) Work Cited at top of third page

ENGLISH 1302: CONVERSATIONS WITH EMERSON'S *NATURE*

Just as the Transcendental community met to discuss religion, philosophy, and literature, you and a classmate or two will meet to read and discuss one section of Ralph Waldo Emerson's essay: *Nature*. Read your assigned section carefully within your group, while encouraging discussion. Refer back to your class lecture notes and determine what Romantic and Transcendental ideals are expressed in your section of the essay. On Thursday, February 9th, you will present your assigned section to the class. Be prepared to:

- A. Summarize your section in an articulate and mature manner.
- B. Draw attention to key points that your audience may want to mark in their text.
- C. Discuss Romantic and Transcendental ideals and how your section relates.
- D. Give a one-sentence theme statement for your section.
- E. Ask your audience at least two questions to check for understanding. Give mature feedback to their responses.

Divide the presentation equitably throughout your group and prepare in advance. Be ready as you walk into class on Thursday, February 9th.

If you will be absent on the presentation day, you will need to write summaries and theme statements for each section. Ask a classmate for notes from the presentations.

EMERSON'S *Nature* TALK RUBRIC

Student _____

Section _____

Mature and Articulate Summary	/20
Key Points for Annotation	/20
Transcendental Ideals	/30
Theme Statement	/10
Audience Questions	/10
3-5 Minutes	/10
Total	/100

EMERSON'S *Nature* TALK RUBRIC

Student _____

Section _____

Mature and Articulate Summary	/20
Key Points for Annotation	/20
Transcendental Ideals	/30
Theme Statement	/10
Audience Questions	/10
3-5 Minutes	/10
Total	/100

Avatar as Modern Transcendentalism

Reply to this post by submitting one paragraph in which you explore the film *Avatar* in relation to Transcendentalism. Choose **one** theme of Transcendentalism and relate it to the film. Type the theme in **BOLD**. Write no less than five complete sentences and no more than ten; be sure to edit carefully. An "A" paragraph will have absolutely no errors. Look up the character names because some of the Na'vi names are quite challenging. Cite the film at the bottom of your paragraph, but do not cite parenthetically this time. Use the Purdue OWL and/or MLA citation generators to help you with this.

There is no need to view the entire film for this assignment. If you were unable to see it all, do not worry. Use whatever segments you viewed to do the assignment. Do not repeat what other internet postings have said about the film. In fact, don't even look. If you have any trouble with this assignment, email me (as always). I am happy to discuss your ideas with you before you post.

This paragraph and citation is due _____.

You will be able to read the posts of your classmates after you post your own.

There is no requirement to comment on the posts of other students.