

“Civil Disobedience”

1. **Individual work** - Read the assigned sections:
 - a. p. 1-4 (through top paragraph)
 - b. p. 5 (top paragraph, starting with “There are thousands...” six lines down) through first full paragraph (ending with “...freedom by his vote”)
 - c. p. 7 first full paragraph through - p. 9 (12 lines down, “...is done for ever.”)
 - d. p. 9 first full paragraph through p. 10 top paragraph
 - e. p. 18 final paragraph
2. **Individual work** - After reading each section, pause and write:
 - a. What is the main idea?
 - b. Identify a key quotation linked to it
 - c. What word(s) in the quotation best expresses the main idea you named? (explicit) How do the words relate to and support the main idea? (implicit)
3. **Partner work** - Once your work is checked in by Mr. Kramer or Mr. Rigler, you will spend time with your partner discussing the work you did above.
4. **Partner work** - Questions - Discuss the questions below with your partner. Be sure you have good notes / annotations about them.
 - a. What is Thoreau’s position concerning the purpose of government?
 - b. What kind of law might Thoreau believe to be unjust?
 - c. Thoreau compares the government to a machine.
 - i. Explain the metaphor
 - ii. What does he mean by friction and counter-friction?
 - d. What should citizens do when faced with unjust laws?
 - i. What might prevent this?
 - e. Under what circumstance should a citizen break the law? Why? For what purpose?
 - f. What point does Thoreau make about voting? How does this fit into his other points about government and citizens?
 - g. What is the goal - what is Thoreau hoping to achieve?
 - i. What does a government need to be “strictly just”?
 - ii. What is Thoreau’s vision of “a really free and enlightened State”?
5. **Individual work** - You will spend the next part of class writing out answers to the questions below as well as one of the sections from #4, as assigned to you.
 - a. What do you think about the actions Thoreau suggests? When would / wouldn’t you go along with them? Why?
 - b. What do you think about this type of government? Is it possible? Might there still be unjust laws? Would individuals have to obey them?
6. **Discussion / sharing** - each person will share what they wrote for the assigned question in step 5, as well as their personal response.