

Civil Disobedience



"I became convinced that non-cooperation with evil is as much a moral obligation as is cooperation with good. No other person has been more eloquent and passionate in getting this idea across than Henry David Thoreau. As a result of his writings and personal witness, we are the heirs of a legacy of creative protest."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

You all know of the gentleman who's quoted above, but you may not have known that he drew his inspiration from Thoreau. Now you do. And many others have drawn similar inspiration, mustering the courage to stage sit-ins, buzz whaling ships with tiny boats, sleep in a tree that's about to be cut down, or trespass on weapons manufacturers' property & hammer on missile shells.

And these aren't just adults. Non-Jewish students in Nazi-occupied Paris wore yellow stars so that the Nazis would have a tougher time identifying their Jewish classmates. Young Chinese people stood in front of tanks in Tiananmen Square. A student from Blue Earth, Minnesota slept in a box in the middle of an intersection to protest war.

Do you have such courage of your convictions? Do you care about anything enough that you'd risk your safety or freedom to express how you feel? Well, here's your chance to find out.

Write a formal proposal for an act of civil disobedience you would engage in. Include the following considerations & discussion:

- 1). What ethical issue do you care deeply about?
- 2). Why do you believe our government has the wrong policy?
- 3). Why would you need to break the law in order to draw attention to your point of view? Does the policy appear to be changing currently?
- 4). What would you do (in detail)? What law(s) would be broken?
- 5). What legal penalty and personal repercussions would you suffer?
-cite the source where you learned about the legal issues

This should be something about which you are passionate and have thought deeply. Therefore, it should have detail, thoughtful considerations, and clear writing.

50 points