

# Civil Disobedience & ANTIGONE



*"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.*

Thoreau was a 19<sup>th</sup> century guy who refused to pay taxes because they funded a war he felt was immoral. From the above, you see that he inspired a famous civil rights leader, and many others have drawn similar inspiration to protest what they deemed to be unjust rules or practices, 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. ANTIGONE had her own thoughts on the matter.

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/moral issue do you care deeply about? (Law? School Rule? Etc.)
2. **WHY** do you believe this law or rule is 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, or is there no change in sight? Explain.
4. What would you do (**in detail**)? What law(s) would be broken? (Look it up!)
5. What legal penalty **AND** personal repercussions would you suffer?  
(NOTE: You'll have to look up legal stuff, so cite the source where you learned about the legal issues.)

You do **NOT** need to put it in essay form. You may simply use the questions above as **five (5) separate sections** to answer. However, your answers should indicate that this is something about which you are passionate and have thought deeply. Therefore, it should have detail, thoughtful considerations, clear writing, and full sentences. And Notice MLK's reference to "creative protest." In today's social media age, the more creative, the more attention.

**DUE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**50 points**