“From Civil Disobedience” pp338-389 Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/block\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Pre-reading: The excerpt in your text is from a twenty page essay in which Thoreau advocates civil disobedience—the deliberate and public refusal to obey laws that violate one’s personal principles. In the portion included, he expresses his belief that government has been no more than an impediment to the productivity and achievements of the American people. Philosophically, he stands opposed to government. Practically, he urges readers to try to make a better government, one that commands respect. \*\*Do you think this is possible in today’s society? Answer below and explain yourself.
2. What was the catalyst to Thoreau’s writing this essay?
3. Author’s style: Thoreau uses many figurative expressions to develop his ideas. As you read the second full paragraph (“This American government . . .) find two metaphors that he uses to describe the government. Then, explain how they add depth to his purpose. What is the result of these metaphors?
4. A. How does Thoreau define the best possible government? B. According to him, when will Americans get the best possible kind of government?
5. Does Thoreau present a convincing argument for acting on one’s principles? Explain.
6. What arguments could you use to counter his objections to the idea of a standing government? Explain yourself fully.

Go back and reread each paragraph. (Including the background information) Select one quote which you feel is the most important in the entire paragraph. Then, explain why you feel it is important.

Quote Explanation of Importance

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| 1. |  |
| 2. |  |
| 3. |  |

Now, look for two examples of the following and explain how each affects meaning:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Logic: | How does it impact the message: |
| Emotion: | How does it impact the message: |