

# Student Activity 1

## Your turn: Close Reading Exc #1.

(mac/Eng30/Reading Comp/Student Activity 1 close readingExc 1.doc)

Second Excerpt: On Civil Disobedience

Background Information: Here is another paragraph from “On Civil disobedience,” written in 1849 by Henry David Thoreau.

Can there not be a government in which majorities do not virtually decide what is right and wrong, but conscience?...Must the citizen even for a moment, or in the least degree, resign his conscience, to the legislator? Why has every man a conscience then? I think that we should be men first, and subjects afterward. It is not desirable to cultivate a respect for the law, so much as for the right. The only obligation which I have a right to assume is to do at any time what I think right...If the injustice is part of the necessary friction of the machine of government, let it go, let it go...If the injustice has a spring, or a pulley, or a rope, or a crank, exclusively for itself, then perhaps you can consider whether the remedy will not be worse than the evil: but if it is of such a nature that it requires you to be the agent of injustice to another, then I say, break the law. Let your life be a counter friction to stop the machine.

Close Reading, Level 1: Paraphrase and Interpret

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Level 2: The Thesis

Statement of Thesis:

Elaboration of Thesis:

Exemplification of Thesis

Illustration of Thesis: