

MVHS Research Organizer

Name:	Valery J Soltis	Date:	December 5, 2013
Teacher:	I AM the teacher!	Project:	Henry David Thoreau: A Nonconformist's Place in Society

Citation:

"Henry David Thoreau." *Encyclopedia of World Biography*. Detroit: Gale, 1998. *Biography in Context*. Web. 5 Dec. 2013.

Main Idea:

General overview of Thoreau's principals and life story. This source also provides more detailed explanations on his literary works, involvement in the Mexican-American war and the Civil War, as well as a brief explanation of Thoreau's involvement in transcendentalism and his connection with another famous author, Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Supporting Details: (These do NOT need to be complete sentences.)

1.	Criticized living for money and materialism – used a method called civil disobedience
2.	walked around town, instead of working 12 hours a day, had a Harvard degree, people talked – quest to find God in nature
3.	Ghandi was influenced by Thoreau's ideas, people of his time though, were not.
4.	Had a difficult time making a living and supporting himself – lived on someone else's land – wrote the best American nature writing in history
5.	Resisted paying taxes, protesting the war, briefly went to jail

Summary: (Combine the main idea and supporting details into a paragraph.)

Personal Reaction:

While I can't imagine life without Thoreau's journals or the long hours of contemplation at Walden Pond, I also can't imagine a world in which everyone spent all day contemplating and writing about nature. Ghandi needed Thoreau's insight to accomplish what he did and every obscure individual who keeps and cherishes their own copy of Walden Pond with underlined phrases, well, they probably did and continue to need his insight.

Our society needs to support artists/individualists like Thoreau because, as we can see, it's sometimes not possible for artists to give to society *and* find the time to have a job that keeps them clothed, sheltered and fed.