**Journal Entry on Thoreau's "Civil Disobedience"**

* **Why would Thoreau's essay be called "Civil Disobedience"?**

He is making many theoretical claims about the nature of democracy and the relationship between citizen and government.

* **According to Thoreau, what is the definition of a government?**

The government itself, which is only the mode which the people have chosen to

execute their will, is equally liable to be abused and perverted before the people can

act through it

* **Thoreau suggests that "We should be men first, and *subjects*" What is the difference between the two? Why do you think Thoreau makes this suggestion?**

He means that before becoming slaves to the government they should be men first. Then they should work toward living fulfilled lives and having individualism before working for money of the government. It should not be a desire to gain respect but also a right of who you are and what you can do, but also to gain respect for yourself.

* **Do you think Thoreau looks down on soldiers, captains, generals, etc? Support your answer with textual evidence (from what he actually says in his essay).**

I would say yes because they do what they are told even if they don’t believe in what the law is or if it goes against common sense.

In most cases, there is no free exercise whatever of the judgment or of the moral sense, but they put themselves on a level with wood and earth and stones, and wooden men can perhaps be manufactured that will serve the purpose as well. Such command no more respect than men of straw or a lump of dirt. They have the same sort of worth only as horses and dogs. Yet such as these even are commonly esteemed good citizens.

* **What examples does he cite of conscientious men that were made the enemies of society (but were later vindicated and are now held in high esteem)?**

Christ (God), Washington, Franklin,

* **How does Thoreau exercise "civil disobedience"? What happens as a result? Does his action fit in with your view of active citizenship? What else would you have done if you were in his shoes during his time period?**

He practiced it in his own life growing up and then spent a night in jail because he refused to pay taxes in protest of the Mexican war. I would do what I want and also do what I think is right for myself and my people.