

Emerson & Thoreau in 2011: Transcendentalism and its Influence on Today

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Essential Questions:

- How does the Transcendentalists’ definition of a “good government” compare to what we’re seeing today?
- What current resistance groups illustrate ideas that the Transcendentalists believed?
- Who are some modern advocates for “self-reliance” and nonconformity?
- If actively practiced in 2011, what could be some of the repercussions of Thoreau’s advice to “simplify”?

Complete the chart and synthesize the information to develop sophisticated responses to the questions above.

Concept/Ideal	Emerson – Find a quote and explain his position or opinion on the topic.	Thoreau- Find a quote and explain his position or opinion on the topic.	Modern Examples - Find two specific examples, events, or quotes from our modern society that support or refute the Transcendentalists’ opinions. These examples may be domestic or international.
The role and purpose of government			
Resistance and/or Protests against the government			
Self-Reliance, independence, and personal responsibility			
Nonconformity in society			
Simplifying (Reduction of Material Assets)			

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