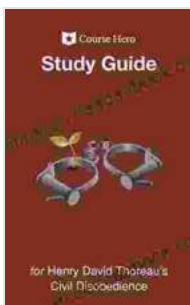


Study Guide for Henry David Thoreau's Civil Disobedience - Course Hero Study Guides

Henry David Thoreau's Civil Disobedience is a seminal work of American literature that explores the relationship between the individual and the state. Published in 1849, the essay argues that individuals have a moral obligation to disobey unjust laws and that the government has no right to interfere in the lives of its citizens.

This study guide provides a comprehensive overview of Civil Disobedience. It includes a detailed summary, character analysis, discussion of themes, and exam preparation tips.

Civil Disobedience begins with Thoreau describing his experience of being arrested and jailed for refusing to pay his poll tax. He argues that the government has no right to force him to support a war that he believes is unjust.



Study Guide for Henry David Thoreau's Civil

Disobedience (Course Hero Study Guides) by Course Hero

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 730 KB

Screen Reader : Supported

Print length : 341 pages

Lending : Enabled

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Thoreau goes on to develop a philosophical argument for civil disobedience. He believes that individuals have a higher moral obligation to their own consciences than to the laws of the state. He argues that the government is only legitimate when it is based on the consent of the governed.

Thoreau concludes *Civil Disobedience* by calling for individuals to resist unjust laws through nonviolent means. He believes that civil disobedience is the most effective way to bring about change.

Henry David Thoreau: The protagonist of *Civil Disobedience*, Thoreau is a complex and contradictory figure. He is a passionate advocate for individual liberty, but he is also a committed anarchist. He believes that the government is inherently corrupt, but he also recognizes the need for order and stability.

The Tax Collector: The tax collector is a representative of the state. He is a symbol of the government's authority and power. Thoreau's refusal to pay his taxes is a direct challenge to the tax collector's authority.

The Jailer: The jailer is a symbol of the government's power to punish those who disobey its laws. Thoreau's experience in jail is a metaphor for the experience of all who resist the state.

Individualism: Thoreau believes that the individual is the most important unit of society. He argues that individuals have a right to live their lives as they see fit, free from the interference of the government.

Civil Disobedience: Thoreau believes that individuals have a moral obligation to disobey unjust laws. He argues that civil disobedience is the

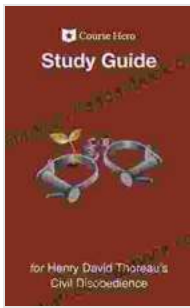
most effective way to bring about change.

Government: Thoreau believes that the government is inherently corrupt. He argues that the government has no right to interfere in the lives of its citizens.

Nature: Thoreau believes that nature is the source of all wisdom and truth. He argues that individuals should live in harmony with nature, not in opposition to it.

- **Read the essay carefully:** Make sure you understand the main points of the essay and the arguments that Thoreau makes.
- **Take notes:** As you read, take notes on the key points of the essay. This will help you to remember the material for the exam.
- **Review your notes regularly:** Once you have taken notes, review them regularly. This will help you to retain the information and to prepare for the exam.
- **Practice answering essay questions:** One of the best ways to prepare for the exam is to practice answering essay questions. This will help you to develop your writing skills and to demonstrate your knowledge of the material.

Civil Disobedience is a complex and challenging work of literature. However, it is also a powerful and inspiring work that can teach us a great deal about the relationship between the individual and the state. This study guide provides a comprehensive overview of the essay, including a detailed summary, character analysis, discussion of themes, and exam preparation tips.



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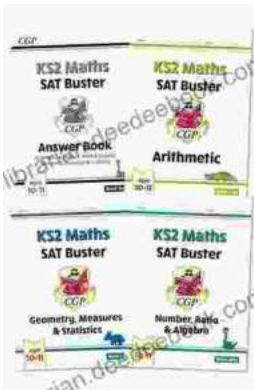
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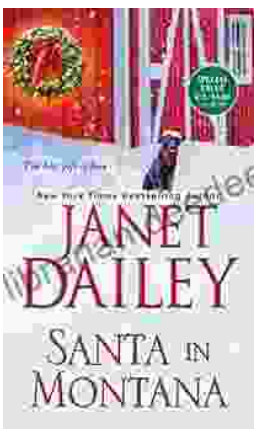
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