

### **Options for Essay #3 – Politics Unit**

Both of these essay options have a 5 page expectation. You might be able to do either in less, or either in more – write as much as you need to while making the best rhetorical decisions and while following the advice of *They Say, I Say*. MLA format and citation style required.

#### **Civil Disobedience**

Many of the essays in the Politics unit deal with the tensions between love of country and duty to it, between patriotism and dissent, between individual will and the power of the majority. We are in the middle of a most contentious political season, and statements and arguments have been made in public that seem to cry out for acts of civil disobedience. With this backdrop of tension, make an argument for a contemporary issue that meets the standard for active civil disobedience as defined by Thoreau.

#### **Satire and Nationalism**

How does Swiftian satire, such as that seen in “A Modest Proposal,” work in contemporary media to expose the flaws behind “national prejudices” or nationalism as defined by Oliver Goldsmith and as exemplified by Christopher Hedges? You will need to define terms such as satire and nationalism, and discuss the flaws of nationalism (use qualifying language). You will need examples from Goldsmith, Hedges, Swift and contemporary sources of satire. Be wary of over-simplification and stereotyping – nationalism is not necessarily all bad. What kind is? Hedges can help with that.