We have read Thoreau’s *Resistance to Civil Government* (starting on page 212)
We have also read Ghandi’s *On Nonviolent Resistance* and Martin Luther King Jr.’s
*Letter from a Birmingham City Jail* (pages 219-222)
Connect the information you have obtained from the above three literary works to
compose an essay regarding the relationship between the government and the individual.

Answer the following questions in a well-argued, well-developed essay using quotes:

What do all three public figures believe about government and the individual?
How did they convey these ideas in their literary pieces? (Examples? Metaphors?) You
may want to use the questions on pg. 233 to help organize your ideas. In your opinion, to
what extent does a citizen have a right or responsibility to break the country’s laws?

Make sure your essay is well planned out before you begin writing. This should be a
formal (five paragraph minimum) essay that flows. Formulate a thesis that will guide the
reader through your paper. For this essay, because your opinion comes into play, you
may use “I” –but try to use it sparingly. You may use the film we have watched on
Ghandi as a reference. You may also do research on any of these figures as long as you
cite your sources carefully. Do not copy and paste information about them from the
internet into your paper.

Remember…
Your first paragraph should be an appropriate introduction to the thesis statement.
**Your thesis statement should make an ARGUMENT.**
Your paragraphs should support the thesis statement with appropriate details from the
text and quotes that also support your argument.
Your conclusion should restate the thesis statement in a *new, more powerful* language.
Please use your writing packet to help you!

Don’t hesitate to come to me with thesis statements, questions or problems. ASAP!

Essay due date: ________________