Topics for Essay 3: *Walden* and/or “Civil Disobedience”

Write a three- to four-page response to one of the following:

1. Drawing supporting evidence from *The Deerslayer* and *Walden*, compare the sources and implications of Truth for Natty Bumppo and Henry David Thoreau. That is, where do their valuing of truthfulness come from and how do these valuing shape their respective actions at Glimmerglass Lake and Walden Pond?

2. Drawing supporting evidence from *Walden*, analyze Thoreau’s (radical) attitudes toward agriculture. You might want first to catalogue what his attitudes are before launching into your analysis of their sources and implications.

3. Drawing supporting evidence from “Civil Disobedience” and/or *Walden*, analyze the foundations of Thoreau’s quiet war with the State. You should cull at least two or three specific issues in his war, describe them, and then connect them to his larger purpose, as outlined in *Walden*, to live his life deliberately.

4. Drawing supporting evidence from “Civil Disobedience” and/or *Walden*, analyze Thoreau’s (equally radical) attitudes toward material possessions. You might want first to catalogue what his attitudes are before launching into your analysis of their sources and implications. [Those familiar with Karl Marx’s ideas on property might find it useful to compare Thoreau’s attitudes with Marx’s.]

5. Drawing supporting evidence from “Civil Disobedience” and/or *Walden*, analyze Thoreau’s complex sense of audience and of purpose. Be sure to connect these to each other and to the core ideas developed in one or both of these classic American texts.

6. Create your own topic in response to Thoreau’s *Walden* and/or “Civil Disobedience.” If you chose this option, be sure to include a copy of your topic with your essay, and feel free to consult with me before the 28th.

Remember our two key questions:
1. How do you know what you know?
2. Why do you feel what you feel?

**DOUBLE-SPACED, TYPED ESSAYS ARE DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS, Tuesday, October 28th.**