

Mr. Francis
American Studies

Transcendentalist Synthesis

Directions: The following prompt is based on the accompanying six sources.

This question requires you to synthesize a variety of sources into a coherent, well-written essay. *Refer to the sources to support your position; avoid mere paraphrase, or summary. Your argument should be central; the sources should support this argument.*

Remember to attribute both direct and indirect citations.

Assignment: Basing your answer on the information below, support, refute, or qualify my assertion: “Kate Chopin’s *The Awakening* (1899) echoes the sentiments of Transcendentalism, a major intellectual force of the nineteenth century. These echoes provide a critique of nineteenth century values, as the bonds of society’s gender roles leave Edna only one way to express her self-reliance.”

Source A Ralph Waldo Emerson’s “Self-Reliance” (1841)

Source B Ralph Waldo Emerson’s “The American Scholar” (1837)

Source C Ralph Waldo Emerson’s “Circles” (1841)

Source D Henry David Thoreau’s chapter on “Economy” from *Walden* (1854)

Source E Henry David Thoreau’s “Resistance to Civil Government” (1848, 1849)

Source F Walt Whitman’s “Song of Myself” (1855, 1891-92)

Please use standard MLA format. The essay must be double-spaced, with one-inch margins all around. Please use a 12-point, Times New Roman font. All papers must have an appropriate and creative title. Length guideline: 3-4 pages. No coversheets.

You will be expected to submit a one-page proposal. You must complete a full rough draft to be peer edited in class. The proposal and your peer-edited rough draft should be stapled together to accompany your final drafts.

Adapted from the AP English Language & Composition Examination.