

Civil Disobedience

Henry David Thoreau

At what point does Thoreau's machine metaphor change from tolerating imperfection to requiring resistance?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Counter-friction
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION Resistance

START If the injustice is part of the necessary friction of the machine of government END that I do not lend myself to the wrong which I condemn.

PASSAGE ID	sec-cd-03
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THE MOVE

Turn a machine metaphor into a threshold for action

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The machine metaphor lets Thoreau tolerate ordinary friction until the government requires a person to become an active agent of injustice. At that point, resistance becomes 'counter-friction': the threshold is participation, not mere imperfection.

MARK

Circle the language of machine, friction, and mechanism. Underline what Thoreau says can be tolerated. Star the condition under which he says the individual must become counter-friction.

NOTICE

- What kinds of governmental imperfection does Thoreau initially allow?
- What changes when injustice requires a person's own cooperation?

- How does the machine metaphor help define a threshold between inconvenience and moral complicity?

THINK

Answer provisionally: At what point does Thoreau's machine metaphor change from tolerating imperfection to requiring resistance? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: At what point does Thoreau's machine metaphor change from tolerating imperfection to requiring resistance? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	The threshold comes when friction is no longer an incidental imperfection and the person is required to become an agent of injustice. At that point Thoreau says resistance must become counter-friction.
EVIDENCE	Use the tolerated-friction language and the condition that triggers active resistance.
WATCH FOR	Do not treat every flaw in government as requiring rebellion. The metaphor defines a specific threshold of complicity.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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At what point does Thoreau's machine metaphor change from tolerating imperfection to requiring resistance?

START ANCHOR	If the injustice is part of the necessary friction of the machine of government
END ANCHOR	that I do not lend myself to the wrong which I condemn.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** - Circle the language of machine, friction, and mechanism. Underline what Thoreau says can be tolerated. Star the condition under which he says the individual must become counter-friction.
2. **NOTICE** - What kinds of governmental imperfection does Thoreau initially allow? What changes when injustice requires a person's own cooperation? How does the machine metaphor help define a threshold between inconvenience and moral complicity?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: At what point does Thoreau's machine metaphor change from tolerating imperfection to requiring resistance?
4. **WRITE** - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.