1. Read excerpts from Emerson’s “Self-Reliance” in your textbooks. Focus on some of his key concepts that are listed below. Re-phrase these ideas in your own words. Make sure you use complete sentences.
   * “Trust thyself, every heart vibrates to that iron string.”
   * “Society everywhere is in conspiracy against the manhood of every one of its members.”
   * “Whoso would be a man, must be a nonconformist.”
   * “A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds.”
   * “To be great is to be misunderstood.”
2. Read the sections “Where I Lived and What I Lived For” and the “Conclusion” of *Walden* in your textbooks. Focus on the concepts of conformity and nonconformity in relation to Thoreau and Emerson. Re-phrase the following quote:
   * “If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.”
3. Now, answer the following prompt in no less than 200 words: What are the advantages and disadvantages to conforming to society’s expectations?
4. Now read Robert Frost’s poem “The Road Not Taken.” The poem can be found on the second page of this paper. Robert Frost’s poem is a metaphor for the decisions and choices in life. In your own words, and in a fully developed paragraph of no less than 100 words, explain the metaphor focusing on the final lines:
   * “I shall be telling this with a sigh   
     Somewhere ages and ages hence:   
     Two road diverged in a wood, and I--   
     I took the one less traveled by,   
     and that has made all the difference.”
5. Now, take a moment to think and list three difficult choices you have made. Select one of these choices and write a paragraph of at least 150 words on why this was so difficult. After you have done this, think about the option that was not chosen and then make a list tabulating the imaginary chain of consequences (the things that may have occurred as a result…) that might have followed if that option would have been chosen.
6. Find two songs, from any genre of music that you choose, that focus on issues of conformity or non-conformity. Provide the artist, title of the song, and the specific lyrics that focus on the issues listed in the previous sentence. Once you have done this, put the lyrics into your own words using complete sentences.

\*\*\*This will be considered an Essay Grade of 20 points\*\*\*

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| Robert Frost (1874–1963).  Mountain Interval.  1920. |
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| **1. The Road Not Taken** |
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| |  | | --- | |  | | TWO roads diverged in a yellow wood, |  | | And sorry I could not travel both |  | | And be one traveler, long I stood |  | | And looked down one as far as I could |  | | To where it bent in the undergrowth; | *5* | |  |  | | Then took the other, as just as fair, |  | | And having perhaps the better claim, |  | | Because it was grassy and wanted wear; |  | | Though as for that the passing there |  | | Had worn them really about the same, | *10* | |  |  | | And both that morning equally lay |  | | In leaves no step had trodden black. |  | | Oh, I kept the first for another day! |  | | Yet knowing how way leads on to way, |  | | I doubted if I should ever come back. | *15* | |  |  | | I shall be telling this with a sigh |  | | Somewhere ages and ages hence: |  | | Two roads diverged in a wood, and I— |  | | I took the one less traveled by, |  | | And that has made all the difference. | *20* | |  |  | |