**Transcendentalism**

**Final Essay Prompt**

“A landscape is great in its proportion as it declares the glory of God, not the works of man” (Asher.B. Durand, *Letters on Landscape Painting*, 1855). In Cole’s painting, *Schroon Mountain,* the artist elevates nature to a spiritual level, suggesting that nature can inspire humans to contemplate the eternal and communicate directly with God. Consider what the Transcendentalists would think of Asher’s statement and Cole’s painting. In what ways would they agree or disagree? Next, write a well-organized essay that addresses the transcendentalists’ view of man’s relationship with God/religion, himself, the natural world, and reaching new understandings. You will need to address only three of the four topics. Finally, evaluate the impact that society has on an individual’s perspective with the world around him/her; ultimately, does it ennoble or debase humankind?

**Please remember:**

1. Your thesis statement will answer the *first* question of the prompt
2. Each separate font (which you should have highlighted in separate colors) addresses a separate paragraph of your essay. Ultimately, you will have *four* body paragraphs for this essay
3. Your FINAL draft must be TYPED and follow standard MLA formatting (Times New Roman, double space, 12 point font, 1 inch margins). Essays not adhering to these guidelines will be considered DRAFTS, and you will receive a zero for your final draft
4. Final essays will be submitted to my Google Drive account. The file name for your essay will be: LastName.FirstInitial\_TranscendentalismEssay. The email address to use for your submission may be found in class.
5. You will be required to turn in your drafts when you submit your final essay online. Failure to turn in your drafts will result in a grade no higher than a 75% (C) for final essay grade