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You will need to carefully read the selection below and complete various activities using the essay as your basis.

Using the highlight function on your computer, you will need to mark the essay below. It will be necessary for you to read the essay several times to fully understand the essay and complete the markings in such a way that demonstrates a close reading of the essay. You will need to use the following chart to correctly mark the essay.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Highlight Color | Item to be identified | Use an X to indicate you have accomplished this task. Use NA if this task did not apply to this essay. |
| PINK | Mark the main idea of the essay. |  |
| AQUA | Mark key examples/ support for the main idea/ theme of the essay. |  |
| GREEN | Mark statements that you agree with . |  |
| YELLOW | Mark statements that are new to you or make you think in a new way. |  |
| RED | Mark statements in the essay that you disagree with. |  |
| GRAY | Mark terms/ concepts that you found difficult to understand. |  |

The time I began reading and marking this assignment was:

My belief about some things is not important. God exists whether or not I believe or, if you prefer, does not exist regardless of my belief or disbelief. The walls of this room exist whether or not I believe in them. If I walk into their space I will bounce off, no matter how fervently I deny their existence.

On the other hand, I have come to understand that there are some very important things about which my belief matters very much. There are things that are subject to the Tinkerbell effect—they only exist so long as we believe in them. One of the things that is subject to the Tinkerbell effect is the rule of law. When you get right down to it, the rule of law only exists because enough of us believe that it exists and believe that it must exist. It exists only so long as we insist that it exists and that everyone, even the non-believers, behave as if it does exist. The minute enough of us stop believing, stop insisting that the law is above us all, that we are all subject to the law—in that moment the rule of law will be gone, as silently and completely as a soap bubble drifting on a summer’s breeze.

So I cling to my belief in the rule of law because it is important. It may be the single greatest achievement of our society. It is the vessel that keeps all our other values safe. It is the last bulwark against both mob rule and the overweening power of the modern state. It is the rule of law that governs us, that protects each one of us when we stand alone against those who disagree with us or do not like us because we are different or fear us.

In times of crisis and threat, there is a temptation to stop believing in the rule of law. A temptation to think that it weakens rather than protects us. We have succumbed to this temptation more than once. Within living memory we responded to a sneak attack by interning American citizens because they, or their parents, or their grandparents were from Japan. In retrospect those actions were not only unjust and morally wrong, they were unnecessary and did nothing to protect us.

The horrific events of 9/11 have tempted me to reach the same conclusions. But I wonder, if we abandon it we stop being what generations of Americans bled and died to create and protect, how we will ever get them back? I have come to understand that, like Tinkerbell, doubt has seriously injured the rule of law. If it is to survive, those who believe in the rule of law must stand up and say—I must say—I believe in the rule of law and will not accept its being taken away. I do not believe that we are so weak, are so frightened, are so impotent that we must give up the rule of law or perish. I do not believe that those few who have harmed us, and who will do so again, are so powerful that we must abandon the very thing that makes it worth being an American.

The time I completed reading and marking this assignment was:

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| Your response should be self-contained. When someone reads your responses, they should be able to tell which question you are responding to.In marking the essay you should be clear in what idea and item you are reacting to. The markings should indicate a close and personal reading of the essay. Excessive markings or lack of markings may indicate a failure to have closely read and comprehended the essay. |  |
| Based on your reading and marking of the essay identify the main idea of the essay as well as support including direct quotations and evidence from the essay. Your response should be limited to no more than one (1) well written and adequately edited paragraph. |  |
| Using at least two (2) of the writing prompts below and in no more than three (3) well written and adequately edited paragraphs create a response to the essay:* The part (s) of the essay I agreed with were
* The part (s) of the essay I disagreed with were
* This essay reminded me of/ made me think of
* This essay made me think in a new way
* This essay was similar to another essay
 |  |
| What question (s) would you like to ask the author of this essay? Explain your reasoning for wanting to have the answer to this question. |  |
| Having now read this essay I… |  |
| **Presenters Only:** You will need to have three (3) questions that you would like to present to your classmates during your seminar. |  |