1. An **aphorism** is a tersely phrased statement of a truth or opinion (a maxim, a proverb). An **epigram** is a concise, witty, and *often paradoxical* remark or saying (an epigram can also be a short, usually satirical poem with a witty ending). Note how Emerson’s writings can be viewed as both aphoristic *as well as* epigrammatic. Here are 7 aphorisms (*or* epigrams) from Ralph Waldo Emerson’s “Self-Reliance”:

- Envy is ignorance. Imitation is suicide. (Line 3)
- Trust thyself; every heart vibrates to that iron string. (Line 8)
- Whoso would be a man must be a nonconformist. (Line 15)
- Nothing is at last sacred but the integrity of your own mind. (Line 17)
- The great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude. (Line 37)
- A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds. (Line 51)
- To be great is to be misunderstood. (Line 61)

In a small group, you will research each of these aphorisms. Please look at my example responses for the 2nd aphorism above: “Trust thyself; every heart vibrates to that iron string.”

After group presentations, on a future quiz or test be able to…..

Address TWO of these aphorisms that you most connect to. Do you agree or disagree with Emerson? Write a half-page response with good paragraphs and a thoughtful answer.
Group 1

“ENVY IS IGNORANCE, IMITATION IS SUICIDE.”
- RALPH WalDO EMERSON

Define terms if necessary:

Identify figurative language/rhetorical devices utilized if any: (this IS this)

Paraphrase (put in your own words) the aphorism:

Explain the meaning of the aphorism:
“Whoso would be a man must be a nonconformist.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Group 2

Define terms if necessary:

Identify figurative language/rhetorical devices utilized if any:

Paraphrase (put in your own words) the aphorism:

Explain the meaning of the aphorism:
Define terms if necessary:

Identify figurative language/rhetorical devices utilized if any:

Paraphrase (put in your own words) the aphorism:

Explain the meaning of the aphorism:
Define terms if necessary:
**Iron string**=the string of a musical instrument

Identify figurative language/rhetorical devices utilized if any: (clue Google the quote + rhetorical device or figurative language)
This is a **metaphor**—specifically an extended analogy.

Paraphrase (put in your own words) the aphorism:
Trust that God put you where you are, when you are, with whom you are for a reason.
If you trust yourself, you can be truly content in whatever you do.

Explain the meaning of the aphorism:
A **tuning fork** is a sound **resonator** which is a two-pronged **fork**. The prongs, called tines, are made from a U-shaped bar of metal (usually **steel**). This bar of metal can move freely. It **resonates** at a specific constant **pitch** when set **vibrating** by striking it against an object. It sounds a pure musical tone after waiting a moment to allow some high overtone sounds to die out. The pitch depends on the length of the two prongs. Its main use is as a standard of pitch to tune other **musical instruments**

Our souls are like tuning forks—they vibrate to truth (trust yourself) just like a tuning fork vibrates when its pitch is played close to it. Our souls vibrate just like the iron strings of a musical instrument vibrate when struck.
Define terms if necessary:

Identify figurative language/rhetorical devices utilized if any: (find the term for repetition of the -s sound)

Paraphrase (put in your own words) the aphorism:

Explain the meaning of the aphorism:
Define terms if necessary:

Identify figurative language/rhetorical devices utilized if any:

Paraphrase (put in your own words) the aphorism:

Explain the meaning of the aphorism:
Define terms if necessary:

Identify figurative language/rhetorical devices utilized if any:

Paraphrase (put in your own words) the aphorism:

Explain the meaning of the aphorism: