Thoreau's challenges to American ideals
1. Hard work leads to wealth and self-determination.
   - We work too much to acquire more than we need (pastoral ideals).
   - Industry and slavery work people too hard (demoralizing, evil).
2. Ownership of land makes us self-sufficient and our own masters (Crevecoeur, Jefferson).
   - Ownership is heavily qualified by debt and other capitalistic burdens.
3. Civic responsibility and republican spirit of duty
   - We must first discover ourselves as divine individuals (live deliberately).
   - Participation is complicity (slavery).
4. America itself as a unified social, economic, and political entity
   - Aforementioned evils
   - The local is being destroyed in the name of progress.
5. Nature...

Environmentalism and Walden
Criteria for an environmentally oriented work, from Lawrence Buell’s *The Environmental Imagination* (1996)
1. The nonhuman environment is present not merely as a framing device but as a presence that begins to suggest that human history is implicated in natural history.
2. The human interest is not understood to be the only legitimate interest.
3. Human accountability to the environment is part of the text’s ethical orientation.
4. Some sense of the environment as a process rather than as a constant or a given is at least implicit in this text.

1. The well-being and flourishing of human and nonhuman life on Earth have value in themselves (synonyms: intrinsic value, inherent value). These values are independent of the usefulness of the nonhuman world for human purposes.
2. Richness and diversity of life forms contribute to the realization of these values and are also values in themselves.
3. Humans have no right to reduce this richness and diversity except to satisfy vital human needs.
4. The flourishing of human life and cultures is compatible with a substantial decrease of the human population. The flourishing of nonhuman life requires such a decrease.
5. Present human interference with the nonhuman world is excessive, and the situation is rapidly worsening.
6. Policies must therefore be changed. These policies affect basic economic, technological, and ideological structures. The resulting state of affairs will be deeply different from the present.
7. The ideological change is mainly that of appreciating life quality (dwelling in situations of inherent value) rather than adhering to an increasingly higher standard of living. There will be a profound awareness of the difference between big and great.
8. Those who subscribe to the foregoing points have an obligation directly or indirectly to try to implement the necessary changes.