

Dead Poet's Society Concluding Assignment

Pick two quotes and describe how Keating, Todd Anderson and Mr. Perry (dad of actor) would respond. Would they agree? Disagree? Why?

(These quotes are from "Self-Reliance," an essay written by Ralph Waldo Emerson, the foremost Transcendental thinker):

1. "Society everywhere is in conspiracy against the manhood of every one of its members. The virtue in most request is conformity."
2. "What I must do is all that concerns me, not what people think...It is harder because you will always find those who think they know what is your duty better than you know it...But the great [hu]man is he/she who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude."
3. "A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines. With consistency a great soul has simply nothing to do. He may as well concern himself with a shadow on the wall. Speak what you think now in hard words and tomorrow speak what tomorrow thinks in hard words again."
4. "To be great is to be misunderstood."