Elements of Transcendentalist Belief:

* The transcendentalist "transcends" or rises above the lower animalistic impulses of life (animal drives) and moves from the rational to a spiritual realm.
* The human soul is part of the Oversoul or universal spirit to which it and other souls return at death.
* Every individual is to be respected because everyone has a portion of that Oversoul (God).
* This Oversoul or Life Force or God can be found everywhere.
* God can be found in both nature and human nature.
* Jesus also had part of God in himself - he was divine as everyone is divine - except in that he lived an exemplary and transcendental life and made the best use of that Power which is within each one.
* More important than a concern about the afterlife, should be a concern for this life - "the one thing in the world of value is the active soul." - Emerson
* Death is never to be feared, for at death the soul merely passes to the oversoul.
* Emphasis should be placed on the here and now. "Give me one world at a time." - Thoreau
* Evil is a negative - merely an absence of good. Light is more powerful than darkness because one ray of light penetrates the dark.
* Power is to be obtained by defying fate or predestination, which seem to work against humans, by exercising one's own spiritual and moral strength. Emphasis on self-reliance.
* Hence, the emphasis is placed on a human thinking.
* The transcendentalists see the necessity of examples of great leaders, writers, philosophers, and others, to show what an individual can become through thinking and action.
* It is foolish to worry about consistency, because what an intelligent person believes tomorrow, if he/she trusts oneself, tomorrow may be completely different from what that person thinks and believes today. "A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds." - Emerson
* The unity of life and universe must be realized. There is a relationship between all things.
* One must have faith in intuition, for no church or creed can communicate truth.
* Reform must not be emphasized - true reform comes from within.