

Prompt: Our local community has decided to separate from the greater city and incorporate as its own town. While governed by national and state laws, part of the process involves examining local laws to ensure that any local code of law is also fair and just. You have been assigned to consider historical legal codes and draft a memo advising the incorporation committee on which legal code can best serve as inspiration as you draft a fair and just local code of law.

Paragraph 1: Discuss the importance of legal codes in society. What function do written laws serve? How can laws promote fairness and justice? What does fairness and justice mean to you?

Paragraph 2: Discuss the benefits and drawbacks of taking inspiration from Roman Law in writing your new legal code. In what ways did the Twelve Tables promote fairness and justice? In what ways is this legal code lacking as a source of inspiration for modern legal codes?

Paragraph 3: Discuss the benefits and drawbacks of taking inspiration from the Napoleonic Code in writing your new code of law. In what ways did the Napoleonic Code promote fairness and justice? In what ways is this legal code lacking as a source of inspiration for modern legal codes?

Paragraph 4: Make your decision. Ultimately, which legal code best promoted fairness and justice in society? Which of the two legal codes is a better model for your new code of law? Why? In what ways is this code still lacking? What changes need to be made in order to “borrow” from this legal code and apply it to the modern era?