

Codes of Honor and Chivalry

By now, you have learned a bit about codes of honor and chivalry from Arthurian times. But have you ever thought about the rules that you have for yourself? Do you behave in certain ways because your parents, teachers, and friends expect you to? Or do you behave in certain ways because you have decided that they are best? What influences your behavior? In this exercise, you will write your own Code of Honor.

On a piece of paper, write down a list of rules that you try to live by, and try not to break. You do not have to write a lot of rules; between five and ten is fine.

Before you write each rule in your code of honor, think about the following questions:

1. What benefits do you, and those around you, gain when you live by this rule?
2. What sacrifices do you make in order to live by this rule? Is this an easy rule to live by?
3. Do you expect others to live by any of your rules? Do other people demand you live by theirs?
4. Have you ever had a conflict when it would have been hard or even impossible to live by two of your own rules at the same time?
5. From what you have learned about Arthurian times, do you think your code of honor would allow you to get along with people if you were magically transported back to that time?

My Code of Honor:

I.

II.

III.

IV.

V.

VI.

VII.

VIII.

IX.

X.