

## The Outsiders: RULES vs. LAWS

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

Task # \_\_\_\_\_ Due Date \_\_\_\_\_

What are the differences between rules and laws? **Rules** are principles that tell us how we should act. Examples of rules would be: to take your hat off in school, be on time to class, don't cheat at board games, and don't tell a friend's secret (unless they are in a harmful situation). **Laws** are a little bit different. Laws are rules which, when disobeyed, result in serious consequences. Laws are rules that have been developed by a society or government, which apply to *all people* in that society. Failure to follow laws can result in legal consequences, such as, paying a fine, doing community service, or going to jail. It is against the law to: steal property from a store, carry a nonlicensed weapon, run a stop sign, murder someone, or drink alcohol when underage.

Directions: Read the following two sets of rules. One is called Code of the West. This is from the time period when cowboys roamed the West. The other set is from a Mining Company that mined for gold underground.

When you are done reading, answer the attached questions.

**Code Of The West**

1. Do not shoot a person in the back.
2. Do not shoot anyone without warning him first.
3. Do not shoot an unarmed person.
4. A buffalo hide belongs to the person who kills the animal.
5. A cow belongs to the person whose brand it bears. Cattle theft is a serious offense.
6. Stealing a man's horse is even worse. It is the most serious offense on the Great Plains. It leaves the man without transportation. The penalty for horse stealing is death.

**Rules Of A Mining Company**

1. That we shall bear an equal share in all costs of operating the mine.
2. That we work together in the mines and use our tools in common.
3. That each man shall keep all the gold he finds but must contribute an equal part of our daily expenses.
4. That we stand by each other in the mine.
5. That each man shall in turn cook -- as well as do his share of the cleaning and other unpleasant jobs.
6. That anybody who steals shall be banished from the tent and not collect any money from the gold mine.
7. That no sick comrade be abandoned.

Directions: Answer the following questions in full sentences. You may use another sheet of paper if necessary.

1. In your own words, what is the difference between a rule and a law?

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2. Which rules were more like law: (a) Code of the West or (b) the Rules of a Mining Company? Explain your reason for picking (a) or (b).

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3. On the night Bob died, rules and laws were broken. Come up with 3 rules that were broken as well as 3 laws that were broken. Write them down.

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