Medieval Code of Chivalry

Chivalry, or the chivalric code, is a [code of conduct](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Code_of_conduct) associated with the [medieval](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medieval) institution of [knighthood](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knight) which developed between 1170 and 1220. The term [*chivalry*](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/chivalry) derives from the [Old French](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_French) term *chevalerie,* which can be translated to "[horse soldiery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cavalry)" or "horsemanship".

Read the following main components of medieval chivalry, and summarize each bullet point in your own words on your worksheet (you may complete this with a partner).

* Thou shalt defend the Church, believing all that it teaches and observing all its directions.
* Thou shalt respect all weaknesses, and shalt constitute thyself the defender of them.
* Thou shalt make war against the infidel without cessation and without mercy.
* Thou shalt perform scrupulously thy feudal duties, if they be not contrary to the laws of God.
* Thou shalt never lie, and shalt remain faithful to thy pledged word.
* Thou shalt be generous, and give largesse to everyone.
* Thou shalt be everywhere and always the champion of the Right and the Good against Injustice and Evil, and thou shalt not recoil before thine enemy.

Over time, the meaning of chivalry has been refined to emphasize social and moral virtues more generally, with an emphasis on behavior around women. And the Code of Chivalry, as it stood by the [Late Middle Ages](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Late_Middle_Ages), was a moral system which combined a [warrior ethos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warrior_ethos), [knightly piety](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knightly_piety), and [courtly manners](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Courtly_manners), all conspiring to establish a notion of [honour](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honour" \o "Honour) and [nobility](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobility).

In the space provided on your worksheet, update the code of chivalry for the 21st century.