

Create a Utopian Community

The Northampton Association of Education and Industry was a utopian society formed in 1842 in Northampton, MA. Like many of the other utopian societies of the time they wanted to form a community based on the principle of equality, that “true” democracy, and could survive in a newly industrialized economy. For four and a half years they attempted to live out their goals and ideals, attempting to create a better model for American society.

The Northampton Association of Education and Industry wanted to

- run a society based on equality.
- improve the moral character and nature in society.
- allow people of all Christian denominations to live together.
- provide education for all members—children and adults.
- support self betterment and intrinsic motivation.
- support the abolitionist movement.
- survive in an industrializing society.
- Promote fair economic principles.
- find an alternative way to run industry without slave labor.
- find an alternative way to run industry without the big distinctions between labor and capital.
- create a truly democratic society.
- promote democratic participation in society.
- support the participation of women in society.

Assignment:

Create your own utopian society based on the goals above. Your society should include rules, provisions and/or space for all of the above goals.

The final product will include the following:

- ☐ A map of your community, including reference to the location in the United States.
- ☐ A constitution that establishes the goals, rights, responsibilities and laws for your community. (see constitution guide)
- ☐ A description of the community. (see guiding questions)

The final product will be assessed based on the Utopian Society Rubric.