

HOUSING AND THE LAW: LESSON 2: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Mainly White legislatures at the local and state level created racist housing policies that forced African Americans to live in poorer communities unequal to those of their White peers. Consider the possibility that the neighborhoods African Americans lived in were equal to White peers. Would it be okay for local and state policies to maintain segregated neighborhoods?
 - a. Why or Why not?
2. Considering the role of federal and local government in redlining, who is responsible for correcting the housing inequality that was created? The federal or local government?
 - a. Why?
3. In his speech President Johnson stated, “I have signed into law the promises of a century”?
 - a. What does he mean by this?
 - b. Do you agree with his assertion?
 - i. Why or Why not?
4. The civil rights movement is often talked about in terms of voting rights and separate but equal laws. Is equal access to housing a civil right?
 - a. Why or Why not?

WRITING PROMPT

The federal government played a major role in housing practices at the local level. Consider what happened to communities when there was more federal intervention and when there was less intervention. With this in mind, create an argument for or against federal intervention for housing equality. Make sure to consider counter-arguments in your argument.