

INSTRUCTIONS

Read the following case description on Trevi Fountain and write a short paper (roughly 2 pages, single-spaced) that answers the questions posted below. Outside research is not required, but it is permitted. If you use outside sources, please include a bibliography and proper citations (use any professional citation style, like APA, Chicago, or MLA). On your final submission, pledge that you've complied with the Academic Integrity Code in completing this assignment.
Late papers will lose 5% of final grade for each day late.

Trevi Fountain

(case adapted from Morality Play, by Jessica Pierce; Waveland Press 2005)

The Trevi Fountain in Rome, Italy is revered by many for its beauty; the fountain is a source of wonder and awe, and a receptacle for countless coins tossed, with whispered dreams, into sparkling waters.

For Robert Cercelletta, the Trevi Fountain was a steady source of income. Using rakes, magnets, or his bare hands, Mr. Cercelletta had a habit of collecting by night the coins tossed by day. In about 15 minutes, he might collect as much as \$1,000, though often a great deal less. Unemployed, he had been fishing the fountain for over a decade before he was finally arrested. Although city authorities had long known about Mr. Cercelletta, they had viewed him as harmless and had ignored his daily trips into the Trevi. Then, in 1999, a new law made it illegal to wade into city monuments like the Trevi. Mr. Cercelletta was issued a series of fines for breaking this law, all of which he ignored. Once the police began monitoring Mr. Cercelletta's dips into the fountain, they realized what a large sum of money was disappearing with him.

In his own defense, Mr. Cercelletta claimed that he was not collecting very much money. What he did collect, he shared with other individuals in need. Anyway, he argued, if he didn't take coins from the fountain, someone else surely would.

Although the coins in the Trevi Fountain were nobody's property, the city collected the coins—the few that were left—once a week and donated them to various charities around the city.

How should the city of Rome move forward in addressing the challenge of managing coins in public fountains?

Questions to address in your paper

Please divide your paper into three sections (label those sections accordingly).

Introduction

What are the main facts of this case? What is known (and what is unknown)? What are the main ethical issues the city of Rome must address in forming a coin-management policy for the city's public fountains?

Impacts and Alternatives

Who is impacted (positively and negatively) by Mr. Cercelletta's actions (more generally, who is impacted by private acquisition of coins from public fountains)? Who are the city's main stakeholders as it develops a policy about coin management? What are the legitimate needs, interests and expectations of these various stakeholder groups? What are some (at least two) possible policy alternatives that resolve (or at least mitigate) the issues this case presents?

Assessment and Recommendation

How do the alternatives raised above compare to each other? To what degree will they solve the challenges they set out to resolve? Which alternative is morally preferable, in your view, and why? Present multiple reasons to justify your recommendation.