**Write** a 700- to 1,050-word paper in which you examine and evaluate the American criminal court system. Address the following in your paper:

* Describe a court and its purpose.
* Define the dual court system.
* Describe the role that early legal codes, the common law, and precedent played in the development of courts.
* Identify the role of courts in criminal justice today.

**Format** your paper consistent with APA guidelines