

Benchmark: 2b

"all men are created equal"

Brief Constructed Response Prompt: How has this statement from the Declaration of Independence been challenged since the time it was first written? Offer an example to support your answer.

Possible Response(s): Students may offer a variety of plausible responses.

Students might explain that the commitment to equality has been challenged through acts of prejudice, discrimination, and unfair treatment. Once again, many examples can be offered including slavery, segregation, exclusions from owning property, employment and pay discrimination, barring certain categories of people from immigrating or holding political office etc.

A sophisticated answer might include a note that the authors of the Declaration had a very narrow group of people in mind when they wrote "all men."

Rubric

- 2** = This response gives a valid answer with an accurate and relevant reason.
- 1** = This response gives a valid answer with an inaccurate, irrelevant, or no reason.
- 0** = inaccurate or no response