Benchmark: C2b

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

- Declaration of Independence (1776)

Selected Response Prompt:

Which of the following best explains American participation in the African slave trade through the mid 19th Century?

A. American ideals and American reality conflicted.
B. African leaders had great influence United States policies.
C. African slaves preferred being controlled by plantation owners.
D. American leaders valued individual rights more so than economic gains.

Correct Response:

A.