

**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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.