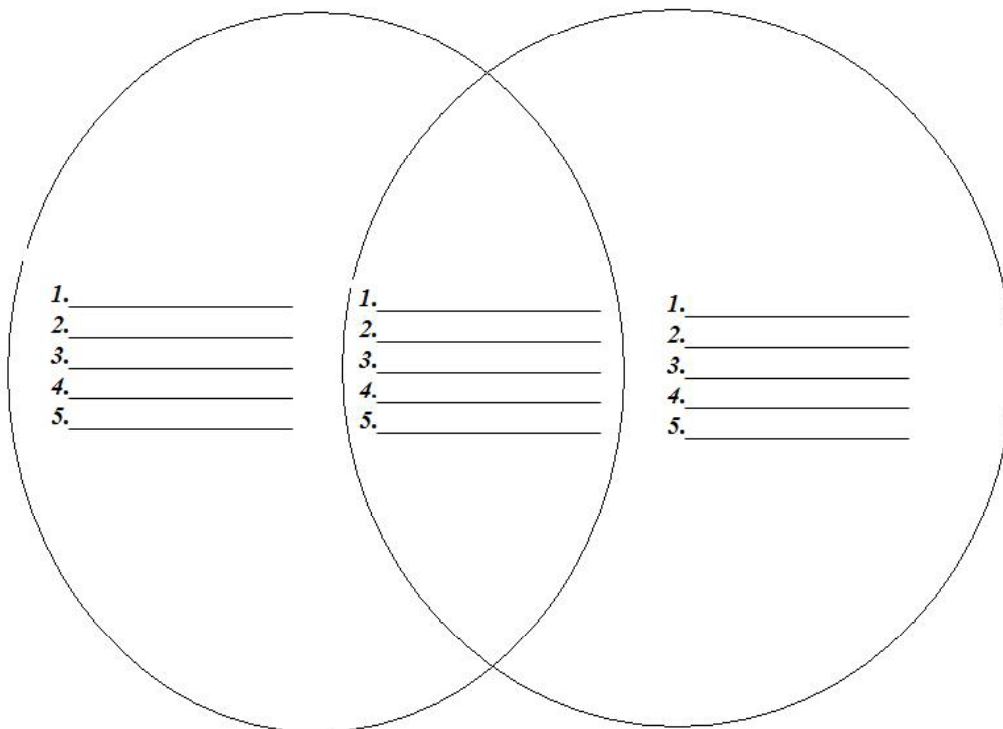


Activity 2. Assessment. Teacher’s Version

Although both David Walker and John Day were freeborn and highly influenced by the Christian evangelical movement of the early 19th century and the republican ideals of the Declaration of Independence, they differed significantly. As a consequence, their lives followed very divergent paths. Day believed there was no possibility blacks would ever be equal citizens in the United States in his lifetime or ever would be. He advocated immigrating to Liberia; a colony established for free blacks on the west coast of Africa, which he himself did. Walker believed that America was the motherland of African Americans as much as it was for European Americans. He advocated that African Americans stay in America and fight for their freedom and equality and demand an immediate end to the institution of slavery.

Using the Venn diagram below to organize their thinking, have students list major views of David Walker vs. John Day and wherever possible provide examples of “quotations” from the two men that support their views. Ask them to identify views that the two men shared.

David Walker’s Views Overlapping Views John Day’s Views



Answer Key

Examples of David Walker's views

- 1) The goal of Liberian colonization is “not for the glory of God” but to perpetuate slavery in the United States.
- 2) America is “more our [African Americans'] country than it is the whites” because, according to Walker, the greatest riches in the country have resulted from the labors of African Americans.
- 3) Walker urges African Americans stay and fight for freedom and equality and not fall victim to the colonization “plot.”
- 4) Slavery is destructive to America and something should immediately be done to end the institution... “...the plot is not for the glory of God, but on the contrary the perpetuation of slavery in this country, which will ruin them and the country forever, unless something is immediately done.”
- 5) Walker does not condemn proponents of Liberia but has “tender” feelings for them. Yet he feels they have been “tricked” and misguided and should reconsider their views of colonization.

Examples of overlapping or shared views of the two men

- 1) Both believed that blacks are treated “inhumanely” in America.
- 2) Both were devout Christians and believed in the tenets of Christianity should inform treatment of African Americans.
- 3) Both men strongly opposed the institution of slavery.

Examples of John Day's views

- 1) “God has planted a paradise on the western coast of Africa” and it is the colony of Liberia. It is a place where the soul of African Americans “expands, and imbibes all that is ennobling to human nature.”
- 2) For recently freed slaves and free blacks to remain in the United States will not end slavery or improve the lives of the enslaved. John Day has seen no change since he left America 20 years ago, i.e. “What good has your continuance there done them? None; nor ever will.”
- 3) Studying and learning new knowledge is different for blacks in Liberia because they can see the results and the benefits of being skilled and knowledgeable.
- 4) In a democratic society where African Americans have equal opportunities to use their skills and knowledge, they excel. According to Day, “Colored men who breathe a proper atmosphere, surrounded by proper influences, incited by proper objects, will become as learned as noble, and as great every way as any other men on earth ...”
- 5) Africa not America is the land of “true liberty” for people of African descent.