

Student Example: Formative Assessment on Walker's Appeal

In Walker's appeal, David Walker argues that Americans are hypocrites for doing the exact opposite of what they claim they stand for. After detailing the brainwashing the Americans subject Black people to, which causes them to unknowingly turn on each other, Walker goes on to talk about the American's ideology that if slaves were free in America they will cause havoc. Then he talks about the American's idea of sending them back to Africa after making their contribution to America. He states "Compare your own language above, extracted from your Declaration of Independence, with your cruelties and murders inflicted by your cruel and unmerciful fathers and yourselves on our fathers and on us -- men who have never given your fathers or you the least provocation!". He is saying the American's actions against Black people don't reflect what they said in documents claiming to want freedom for all. This ties up the whole argument because it shows Black people did nothing to deserve the cruelty that the American enslavers subjected them to and shows that the Americans are wrong and Black people are human and should be afforded the same rights. According to Walker, we can reconcile the ideals of liberty & equality in the founding documents by addressing the hypocritical mindset of the Americans and correcting it by letting it be known that Black people were not at fault and didn't deserve the treatment they got.

In Walker's appeal, David Walker uses a simile to beautifully demonstrate the preposterous ideology of the Americans. After explaining that Jefferson said Black people were inferior to white people in all ways. Walker goes on to talk about how the White people have reduced Black people so much so they didn't just deny that they were, in fact, human but also labeled them animals. "I do not know what to compare it to, unless, like putting one wild deer in an iron cage, where it will be secured, and hold another by the side of the same, then let it go, and expect the one in the cage to run as fast as the one at liberty." Walker uses this simile to show the audience that the American's way of thinking at the time was absurd and illogical. This appeals to the audience because it puts the American's way of thinking into perspective for the reader. By showing them this the audience can recognize that the American ideology that Black people are inferior to white makes just as much sense as the simile. The simile presented strengthens Walker's argument because it shows that the Americans' superiority made no sense and was merely an excuse to infringe upon Black people's rights as humans. The simile was effective in showing me that Jefferson's claims were untrue and absurd.