

## Group 4 Questions

### **Dewey's Creative Democracy – The Task Before Us**

1. How does Dewey's opinion of our founding fathers differ from Warren? (pg. 227)
2. Dewey believes that the frontier is moral, not physical (pg.227) In contrast, Walker's view when he looks to the frontier is physical. He blames the exhaustion of resources (deforestation) on an excess of population due to immigration (pg.153-154) How is Dewey's view on the increase of population more positive? (pg.228)  
  
Similarly, both Dewey and Walker observe the great changes in conditions from when the founding fathers gathered. This change leads both of them to very different conclusions. How so?
3. Dewey says that "democracy is a moral ideal." (pg. 231) What would Dewey say is wrong with our 'habit' of thinking of democracy? How can we change these habits? In what ways do we embrace Dewey's ideal, and in what ways have we gone astray? How has democracy become more of an institution than a moral way of life?
4. Dewey makes Democracy sacred (pg. 232) How does his faith in human beings and democracy relate to Comte's view of the religion of humanity? (pg.43) Do you think Dewey is foolish to have so much faith in humans?
5. On pg. 233 Dewey states that democracy fails when you "limit the contacts, exchanges, communications, [and] the interactions." Ways in which we limit such experiences today refer to prejudice and the abuse of rights. Does this mean that, in

Dewey's eyes, democracy has failed in today's society?

Furthermore, Dewey defines democracy through the peaceful cooperation of both parties when there are conflicting views. (pg. 231) What would he think about politics today?

6. Dewey states on page 232 that out of need and desires grows "purpose and direction of energy...They continually open the way into the unexplored and unattained future." He says that it is our needs that lead us beyond knowledge. It is through knowledge that we progress. How does this differ to Malthus' view on humanity's irrepressible needs and desire to find food and have sex, which ultimately doom humanity?

7. On page 229 Dewey talks about how we cannot denounce Nazism if we ourselves are racist. What does he mean? How could we prevent Nazism, according to Dewey, without the use of weapons?

8. How does Dewey make knowledge the gateway to progress? How does Democracy lead to such progression in knowledge? How is this similar to Condorcet's view on education? How do they feel about the capacity of intelligence of the common man? (pg. 230)

9. "Knowledge of conditions as they are is the only solid ground for communication and sharing." (pg 232) Why?

10. "Merely legal guarantees of the civil liberties of free belief, free expression, free assemble are of little avail if in daily life freedom of communication, the give and take of ideas, facts, experiences, is choked by mutual suspicion, by abuse, by fear and hatred." (pg.231) How does this compare to Thoreau's view of sharing ideas?