

## Developing critical thinking

“Hardships of the First American Settlers” written by William Bradford and “The Colonisation of North America” written by Dee Brown describe the life of the first English pilgrims who settled in the New Land. They sailed through the Atlantic Ocean on the “Mayflower” ship. The texts tell the same argument but with a different point of view. William Bradford wrote his journal “History of Plymouth Plantation” that contained the extract in 1650/51, written from the point of view of the Pilgrim Fathers. The same writer is a fervent Puritan who colonised America and escaped from English religious persecution. While Dee Brown’s document is a passage of “Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee”, a book published in 1971. This is the opposite of the first one because it is written from the point of view of the Native Americans. Dee Brown wrote his research after a serious revision of the history of North America.

William Bradford arrived in America in 1620. He and his friend didn’t find a cozy ambient and climate. It was winter, a violent season full of storms and it was very cold. They stayed in a wilderness, an uninhabited and savage area full of wild beasts and wild men. Bradford calls the Native People as savage barbarians. Pilgrim fathers resort to descriptors of the Apostles to underline the idea they didn’t expected to be helped. Native Americans were hostile people in Bradford’s opinion. Bradford also uses absolute negation for example “no houses” or “nor inns” to underline the bad situations of Puritans.

While Dee Brown describes Indians as a fine population. He has a better view of Native Americans than Bradford. He supports them. Indeed in his document Dee Brown shows them in a positive way, they helped Pilgrims, they shared corn with them from the tribal stores, they showed them how to catch fish and got them through the first winter. The function of the first sequence of the text is therefore a clear negation of all that said in William Bradford’s one. Therefore, Dee Brown describes Indians as friendly and kind people while William Bradford as a hostile and wicked people.

In both the text the season is winter but Brown tells the land was full of resources like corn, fishes or woods who Puritans could use to pass the critical season while Bradford describes a desolate and savage land.

Bradford despises Indians because he was a Puritan and a colonizer of their lands so they are his enemies. Bradford had to disagree with Indians’ traditions because he had to settle their area.

Brown instead support Indians because I think he was a descendant from them so he would like to describe them as a good population. Bradford and Brown are opposite. We do not know if Bradford’s text or Brown’s one are correct but we can use them as

a research of that important period of lesson. In my opinion I think that Bradford's document may be more realistic than Brown's one because Bradford lived that experience in first person while Brown only researched about these arguments.