1) Slaves and masters had differing relations based largely on the kindness of their masters. While some masters were kind to their slaves, others beat them mercilessly in order to keep them in line. Men generally suffered beatings as punishment. However the great difference between men and women was that the women were often raped by the white masters for no reason whatsoever.

2) The enslavement of people led largely to a dramatic divergence between the white and black concepts of various institutions. Blacks saw religion as a sort of saving grace, a way to believe that they would be lifted above their overlords in eternity while whites viewed it as a method for subjugating blacks by using the argument that it was God's will that they be enslaved. Musical expression was a way for blacks to pass the time in the fields and to express their communal aspirations for freedom/ ideals. The blacks believed that the entire slave community was one large family with the immediate family being a fraction of a greater one. Whites on plantations often violated family ties by having affairs with slaves.

3) The slaves developed a negative self-image as a result of long-term oppression. They thought of themselves as inferior to whites and some even believed the white argument that God had willed them to serve whites. Slaves consequently had trouble visualizing the world off the plantation, despite many fantasies of freedom.

4) Escaped slaves could view slavery as evil and react to the atrocities while those who were still enslaved could only narrowly examine the ramifications of the institution on their well-being.

5) They should make sure that they understand the context of the times before they attempt to jump to conclusions regarding the meaning of songs. The limitations of the songs and writing are obviously the pidgin language barrier between modern scholars and the slaves of the antebellum era. It is sometimes difficult to comprehend the meaning of the slaves' ideas because of this. However, by examining the language used by black slaves it can provide insight into the development of slave ideas and societies.