Letter to the Editor

**Background Information**:

An editorial is an article in a newspaper or magazine that expresses the opinion of the editor,

editorial board, or publisher. Many newspapers contain sections where readers can write letters

to the editor. These letters are short opinion pieces that respond to the topic of an editorial.

Frequently they are written to support or argue against the opinion expressed by the editor.

**Directions**:

After participating in a structured academic controversy lesson on Columbus Day, you will have

the opportunity to write a letter to an editor. The editor has posed the following question:

**Should we celebrate Columbus Day?**

In a short three to five paragraph essay, respond to the editor’s question above. If you think we

**should** celebrate Columbus Day, explain why and how we should celebrate it. If you think we

**should not** continue celebration of Columbus Day, explain why and how you would change it.

You *MUST* use examples from the positions presented in your arguments sheets to support your

opinion.

**Grading Rubric**

Your letter to the editor will be graded using the following scoring guide.

Essay Structure- **10 Points**

* Essay contains three to five paragraphs- 2 points
* A clear thesis statement is included at the end of the first paragraph- 2 Points
* The editor should be able to know from your thesis statement if you support

celebrating Columbus Day or want it changed.

* Topic sentences begin each paragraph- 2 Points
* Sentence structure/fluency- 2 Points
* Have you written complete sentences?
* Does each paragraph focus on the same idea/topic?
* Grammar and Spelling- 2 Points

Essay Content- **10 Points**

* The student identifies and consistently maintains an opinion on Columbus Day - 2 Points
* The student identifies at least three factors that support their opinon-3 points
* The thesis is supported by evidence presented in their argument sheets- 3 Points
* The student acknowledges and disproves any arguments against their thesis- 2 Points