**Columbus Controversy-Round ONE**

**Arguments AGAINST**

• Christopher Columbus did not discover America or the New World. Millions of indigenous people lived in that hemisphere when Columbus arrived. The ancestors of these people arrived in the New World over 1,300 years ago.

• We honor Columbus as one of the most famous explorers, but in reality he failed to achieve his goal. His mission was to find an all water route to East Asia. America was discovered by accident.

• When Columbus arrived on the Island of Hispaniola, he claimed the land for Spain, later claiming more land than he would actually step foot on. This land was already inhabited by thousands of indigenous people.

• During his first voyage Columbus recognized that, “with fifty men they [the native Taínos] can all be subjugated and made to do what is required of them.”

• Celebrating Columbus Day means that we honor a slaveholder. Columbus began the first institutionalized slavery in America. During his second voyage he ordered the native people he encountered to be captured and sold in Spain as slaves.

• Columbus began Spanish colonization in the New World. Spain’s presence resulted in the forced conversion of Native Americans they encountered. Native Americans were converted against their will through violence while those that refused to convert were often conquered and made slaves or killed.

• The first people Columbus encountered were the Taino on the Island of Hispaniola. Forty years after Columbus first arrived, between 80% and 90% of Tainos were dead as the result of being overworked, or victims of warfare and disease.

• Because of the success of Columbus voyage, hundreds of thousands of slaves were imported from Africa to the New World, and an American economy driven by millions of enslaved people.

Resources:

Dobbs, Rebecca. “Why we should abolish Columbus Day.” University of North Carolina Department of Geography. <http://www.unc.edu/~grdobbs/nocolumb.html>.

Sale, Kirkpatrick. The Conquest of Paradise. Plume. New York, NY. Sept. 26, 1991.