**Columbus Controversy-Round ONE**

**Arguments FOR**

• Columbus Day recognizes the achievements of a great Renaissance explorer who founded the first permanent European settlement in the New World. The arrival of Columbus in 1492 marks the beginning of recorded history in America.

• Columbus Day celebrates the beginning of cultural exchange between America and Europe. After Columbus, came millions of European immigrants who brought their art, music, science, medicine, philosophy and religious principles to America. These contributions have helped shape the United States and include Greek democracy, Roman law, Judeo-Christian ethics and the tenet (belief) that all men are created equal.

• Columbus Day is one of America s oldest and most Patriotic holidays. The holiday has been celebrated since 1792. Then in 1892, the pledge of allegiance was written in honor of the 400th anniversary of his first voyage. That year, President Benjamin Harrison declared Columbus Day a legal holiday.

• By opening America, Columbus brought the ideas and technology of scientists, philosophers, inventors, writers, and thinkers that contributed to the creation and success of the United States as a democracy and world power.

• The United States has a significant collection of Columbus memorabilia, including his desk, papers, and the cross he used to claim the New World for Spain. These are in the Columbus Chapel in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania.

• In 1971 Columbus Day became a federal holiday in all 50 states after Congress passed a law declaring the second Monday in October Columbus Day.

• Columbus Day commemorates the arrival on these shores of more than 5 million Italians a century ago. Today, their children and grandchildren constitute the nation s fifth largest ethnic group, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

• Columbus Day is the only day on which the nation recognizes the heritage of an estimated 26 million Italian Americans.

References:

(OSIA) The Order of Sons of Italy in America in Washington D.C. Why we should celebrate Columbus Day. <http://www.osia.org/public/pdf/Celebrate\_Col\_Day.pdf>.