**Columbus Controversy-Round Two**

**Arguments FOR**

• For many years Italian-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, as well as a number of Christian and ethnic groups embrace the holiday as an occasion to celebrate their ethnic and religious heritage.

• Columbus did not start slavery; slavery dates back to Ancient Egypt. Columbus instituted slavery as a business undertaking which was seen as acceptable by society at the time and place he lived.

• The arrival of Europeans to the New World was bound to happen. Columbus was the first European to make a significant impact on European interaction with the Americas. If he had not arrived, other explorers would have. For that reason it is unfair to blame Columbus for all negative results of European colonization.

• The United States has long admired Columbus. America has more monuments to Columbus than any other nation in the world.

• Columbus’ expedition resulted in the Columbian Exchange. He brought wheat, melons, grapes, coffee, sugar, cattle, pigs, and chicken. The Spanish horse gave the nomadic peoples of western North America a new and more effective way to hunt buffalo.

• In exchange for European goods, food native to the New World made its way to Europe. As a result, there is worldwide reliance on potatoes and corn which provide the only source of food for some of the poorest people around the world today.

• Columbus established the first successful European colonies in the New World. The migration of people to the Americas prevented overpopulation in Europe and provided a better life and opportunities for many.

• The arrival of millions of people from Europe and eventually the entire world, has led to a multicultural society in the United States today.

Resources:

Berliner, Michael S. “The Christopher Columbus Controversy.” The Los Angeles Times, Dec. 30, 1991.

Castronovo Fusco, Mary Ann. “In Person; In Defense of Columbus.” The New York Times. Oct. 8, 2000.