

Bridge/Writing Question

Write about one time that you learned something about a hero of yours that changed the way you perceive(d) them.

Opening Question

What benefit does reading a primary source give us compared to reading a secondary source? Vice versa?

Core Questions

Relationships/Connections

What was Columbus' attitude towards the land itself when he made first contact?

What was Columbus' attitude towards the indigenous people on first contact?

-Why did he give them gifts?

What were Columbus' motives/values when he arrived at the Americas?

How did Columbus and Las Casas differ in the way they viewed the land? The indigenous peoples?

How does Las Casas interact with the indigenous people and his fellow Spaniards? What does that say about him?

Language

Why do you think Columbus refers to himself in the third person (particularly, as "the Admiral") from time to time?

-Who is the audience for this journal ("your highness")?

-How does knowing this intended audience change the way we read it?

What language does Columbus use when describing the indigenous people, and what does that say about his view of them?

How does reading Columbus' own words change the way you perceive him, if at all?

Judging from the way he writes about himself, what did Columbus think of himself and what he was doing?

History

Should we seek to change the 'master narrative' of Columbus and European colonization of the Americas? Why or why not?

Why do you think that this narrative of Columbus' life is so rarely told?

Why do we still celebrate Columbus day in many cities, states, and schools?

What people or events from history (or occurring today) did you think of while you read this?

How does Christianity factor into both Columbus' and Las Casas' narratives?

Is it fair to criticize Christianity as a motive for Columbus' crimes?

Why do you think we are more familiar with Columbus than Las Casas?

Closing Questions/Whip Around

Should we still consider Columbus a hero? (Quick yes/no response, potentially with a *brief* justification)