

Name: _____

Date: _____

Informative Writing: The Truth About Columbus

Choice A:

Write a letter to our Social Studies textbook company to inform them of what they left out about Columbus.

Choice B:

Write a newspaper article that we can publish for a 3rd or 4th grade class. Inform them of important and accurate information about Columbus.

Either choice must include:

I. An introduction paragraph in which you:

- Get your reader's attention and introduce the topic
- Summarize what the textbook says about Columbus (Choice A)
- Explain who Columbus was (Choice B)
- Introduce that there are multiple perspectives regarding Columbus

II. At least two body paragraphs about what happened and what he did, according to a variety of sources.

- You must cite your sources in parentheses after a major piece of information.
- *Example:* Columbus made a second expedition in 1493, but there were many problems this time (Everett and Reid).

III. A conclusion paragraph explaining who he was overall and your main point (what the textbook should say, or what 3rd/4th graders should know).

IV. A bibliography, or list of the sources you used, including title and author.

Writing Expectations:

- At least 4 paragraphs long, with all components included.
- Interesting introduction that grabs attention and introduces the topic without giving away too many details.
- First body paragraph makes a strong point and shares historical information, supported by facts and details from research.
- Second body paragraph makes a new strong point and shares historical information, supported by facts and details from research.
- Conclusion paragraph summarizes the topic without repeating the same ideas.

Style and Conventions:

- Consistently uses complete sentences (no fragments or run-ons).
- Uses a variety of sentence lengths and vivid, interesting word choice.
- All sources are cited in parentheses as explained in class.
- Commonly misused words, like there/their/they're, are used correctly.
- Subjects and verbs agree.
- Verb tense is consistent and correct throughout the writing.
- Plurals and possessives are used correctly.