

## THE CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS INTERVIEW NEWS CONFERENCE PROJECT

**OBJECTIVE:** STUDENTS WILL RESEARCH VARIOUS ASPECTS OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS'S LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS. THE STUDENTS WILL ANALYZE THE DATA AND FORMULATE QUESTIONS TO ASK COLUMBUS DURING THE INTERVIEW HE HAS GRANTED NEAR THE END OF HIS LIFE. THE STUDENTS WILL COMPARE AND CONTRAST THE INFORMATION THEY GATHERED AND THE RESPONSES PROVIDED BY COLUMBUS. THE STUDENTS WILL DESCRIBE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN COLUMBUS'S PERSPECTIVE AS A EUROPEAN EXPLORER AND THOSE INDIGINOUS PEOPLES WHOSE LIVES WERE CHANGED BY HIS DISCOVERY. COLUMBUS HAS MADE MANY CLAIMS IN HIS LIFE THAT MANY HAVE LAUGHED AT. SOME HAVE CALLED COLUMBUS A TELLER OF HALF TRUTHS. THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO SET THE STORY STRAIGHT. COLUMBUS HAS GRANTED ONE LAST INTERVIEW. YOU AND YOUR FELLOW JOURNALISTS MUST SEEK OUT THE TRUTH SO THAT YOU CAN WRITE AN ARTICLE BASED SOLEY ON THE FACTS AND DISPELL ALL OF THE MYTHS THAT SURROUND THE NAME COLUMBUS. BE AWARE COLUMBUS IS VERY INTELLIGENT AND WILL TRY TO SWAY YOU—THAT'S WHY YOU MUST HAVE YOUR FACTS STRAIGHT AND ASK THE TOUGH QUESTIONS.

### **PROCESS:**

#### **STEP ONE: DAY 1**

DIVIDE THE CLASS INTO THE FOLLOWING RESEARCH TEAMS:

1. CNN NEWS RESEARCH COLUMBUS THE MAN BEFORE THE DISCOVERY.
2. FOX NEWS RESEARCH COLUMBUS'S FIRST VOYAGE
3. CBS NEWS RESEARCH COLUMBUS'S SECOND VOYAGE
4. NBC NEWS RESEARCH COLUMBUS'S THIRD VOYAGE
5. NEW YORK TIMES RESEARCH COLUMBUS'S FOURTH VOYAGE TO HIS DEATH
6. HAVANAH HERALD RESEARCH THE NATIVE PEOPLES WHO CAME INTO CONTACT WITH COLUMBUS AND THOSE WHO FOLLOWED.
7. POPULAR MECHANICS – THE TECHNOLOGY OF THE VOYAGES

## **STEP TWO: DAY 2-3 10 PTS FOR EACH Q AND A OUT OF 50**

FORMULATE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS.....USING THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE LEARNED FROM YOUR RESEARCH EACH PERSON IN THE GROUP MUST CREATE 5 PROBING QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR RESEARCH TOPIC THAT HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO YOUR NEWS DEPARTMENT. THE QUESTIONS MUST BE TYPED AND THE EXPECTED RESPONSE FROM COLUMBUS MUST BE INCLUDED. EACH MEMBER WILL POSE 5 OF THE THEIR 10 QUESTIONS DURING THE INTERVIEW. MEMBERS OF THE OTHER NEWS ORGANIZATIONS ARE RELYING ON YOU AS THEY WILL BE TAKING NOTES IN PREPARATION FOR WRITING THE SCRIPT FOR THEIR SPECIAL ONE HOUR SPECIAL ON COLUMBUS.

## **STEP THREE: THE INTERVIEW 4-5**

MR. ROSE WILL PLAY THE PART OF COLUMBUS  
STUDENTS WILL PLAY THE PART OF JOURNALISTS LOOKING TO MAKE A NAME FOR THEMSELVES BY ASKING TOUGH QUESTIONS.  
THE INTERVIEW WILL LAST TWO CLASS PERIODS.  
JOURNALISTS WILL BE CALLED ON ACCORDING TO THEIR TOPIC IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER CNN—FOX—CBS—NBC—NEWYORK TIMES—HAVANAH HERALD—PEOPLE MAGAZINE—POPULAR MECHANICS.  
**JOURNALISTS NOT ASKING QUESTIONS WILL BE TAKING NOTES THAT WILL BE USED TO HELP WRITE THEIR ARTICLES AND PREPARE THEM FOR A QUIZ.**  
**COLUMBUS WILL GIVE A FINAL STATEMENT AT THE END OF THE INTERVIEW**

## **STEP FOUR: POST INTERVIEW 6- 7 50 POINTS**

EACH STUDENT USING THE NOTES TAKEN FROM THE INTERVIEW WILL WRITE A BRIEF ARTICLE ABOUT COLUMBUS AND HIS VOYAGES AND THE EFFECT THEY HAD ON BOTH EUROPE AND THE NEW WORLD.  
YOUR AUDIENCE WANTS TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED ON COLOMBUS'S VOYAGES: HOW WERE THE NATIVE PEOPLES LIVES CHANGED? WHAT DROVE COLUMBUS TO EXPLORE? WHAT HE REALLY DISCOVERED. HOW DID HIS DISCOVERY CHANGE THE WORLD? WHAT CHALLENGES DID HE FACE ON HIS VOYAGES? FINALLY SHOULD COLUMBUS BE REMEMBERED AS A GREAT BUT MISGUIDED HERO OR IS HE ONE OF HISTORY'S GREATEST VILLIANS?

## **STEP FIVE --THE TEST 50 POINT**

**A 25 QUESTION REMOTE TEST WILL BE GIVEN ON DAY NINE. THE QUESTIONS ON THE TEST WILL BE TAKEN FROM QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS GENERATED DURING THE INTERVIEW. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL INFORMATION THAT IS PRESENTED IN THE INTERVIEW. A COPY OF EVERY GROUPS QUESTIONS WILL BE PROVIDED TO EACH STUDENT PRIOR TO THE INTERVIEW.**

### **WHAT EACH GROUP IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:**

- 1. THE GROUP MUST PROVIDE A COPY OF ALL YOUR QUESTIONS TO EACH STUDENT IN THE CLASS PRIOR TO THE INTERVIEW. YOUR GROUP WILL NEED TO MAKE 25 COPIES.**
- 2. WORKING TOGETHER AND ORGANIZING YOUR RESEARCH AND QUESTIONS THAT WILL THOROUGHLY COVER YOUR ASSIGNED TOPIC.**

### **WHAT EACH STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:**

- 1. 5 QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR GROUPS ASSIGNED TOPIC. EACH QUESTION MUST HAVE THE FACTUAL ANSWER TO THE QUESTION. A COPY OF THE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WILL BE HANDED IN ON THE DAY OF THE INTERVIEW. EACH QUESTION IS WORTH 10 POINTS.**
- 2. EACH STUDENT WILL WRITE AN ESSAY ABOUT COLUMBUS ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS POSED IN STEP FOUR. THE ESSAY MUST THOROUGHLY ANSWER THE QUESTIONS POSED. THE ESSAY WILL BE GRADED ON EFFECTIVE USE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE INFORMATION LEARNED DURING THE INTERVIEW. THE ESSAY IS WORTH 50 POINTS**
- 3. THE 25 QUESTION TEST**

**EACH GROUP WILL RECEIVE A STARTER RESEARCH PACKET THAT WILL INCLUDE:**

**A SET OF ARTICLES ABOUT YOUR TOPIC.  
A SET OF WEB SITES TO GET YOU STARTED.  
A SET OF TWO COLUMBUS BIOGRAPHIES  
A SET OF HOW TO ASK GREAT QUESTIONS**

### **POINTS POSSIBLE**