**Argumentative Essay #1 Due: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Background:**

With all of the research on Christopher Columbus, both present and past, it seems that Columbus and his journey to the “New World” is plagued with controversy. Is Columbus a “hero” who overcame extreme obstacles to pave the way for this country to be what it is today? Or does Columbus symbolize a more dark part of our world’s history (imperialism, slavery, etc)? To make matters more complicated Christopher Columbus has a national holiday in his honor (this year occurring on October 13th). By looking at sources that I have painstakingly dug up for you (It really wasn’t that hard) you are to construct an argumentative essay that tells the story of Columbus, the story of how Columbus Day came about, and why Columbus day **should not** be an observed holiday in the United States.

**Question:** *Should Columbus Day be an observed holiday in the United States?*

**Your Position:** *No*

**Getting Started:**

You will want to start by doing research on the subject. For your first argumentative essay, I have provided you with the resources that you will need to write your paper. You can access the sources by going to my website (snyderoec.weebly.com). While going through the materials you are going to want to make notes on usable content that could be used to support your argument. You are also going to want to make your reference page (I know this sounds weird, but I find that making my “reference page” first helps me more than writing it after I am done with my essay). We will be writing the reference page together in class so that you can learn how to write reference pages correctly (we will be formatting sources in APA format in this course).

**Thesis:**

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Your thesis should clearly state your view on the topic you are researching. For the first paper I am choosing your side of the argument. You will however have to write a clear and concise thesis that will appear in your introductory paragraph and again in your conclusion.

**Essay Structure:**

For this essay I am also going to give you a template you can use to write your argumentative essay. You can choose to structure your essay differently if you would like, however I am trying to make the first assignment more about giving you a taste for argumentative essay writing, not throwing you to the wolves and assuming you know what you are doing.

**Argument**

Your arguments should always be backed by evidence. Without the evidence, your paper is purely an opinion piece (which isn’t wrong, it is just not an argumentative essay). You might also want to include the other side of the argument in your paper. By giving the other side of the argument you are telling your reader that you have looked at the other side of the story and that you came to your position by weighing the pros and cons of each argument.

**Conclusion**

Your conclusion should rehash your thesis and summarize your main arguments to the reader. You should not add new arguments at this point, because this could confuse the reader. Again, this is the last chance for you to persuade the reader so don’t mess it up by finishing weakly!

**Rubric**

Make sure you use the rubric to help you understand what I am looking for when I grade your paper. The rubric for this paper is found on the next page. You will turn this rubric in to me with your paper. I am going to ask you to grade your paper on the rubric so that I can see what your thoughts are on the paper and if you have properly looked at the rubric to help you assemble your essay.