**Close Reading questions for “Columbus, the Man”**

**First reading: Get the main idea and supporting details.**

1. What impressed Columbus about the Taino Indians?
2. What does the author says Columbus’ wanted to do with the Taino tribe? What did he want to teach them?
3. According to the author, how does Columbus feel about the young Taino chief?
4. According to the footnote, what was *La Navidad*?
5. What does the author say “There was no contradiction about…” with Columbus’ views of the Taino?
6. What does the author say was the ultimate goal of Columbus’ voyages?

**Second reading: Author’s Craft**

1. Based on what the text says, what claim is the author making about Columbus? Does he think Columbus is a good guy or a bad guy?
2. What words or phrases does the author use to convince me he is right? Find three pieces of evidence he uses.
3. What does the author say Columbus meant when he said “They (the Indians) ought to be good servants.”
4. All authors have bias in their writings. What are some words the author uses that show his bias? (Biased words usually show strong feelings or make us have strong feelings. They usually are not fair to other peoples’ opinions.)
5. Where is the author getting his information about Columbus from? Does he use direct quotes to support his position?

**Third reading: Making Connections and Putting it all Together**

1. Is the argument the author is making about Columbus convincing? Explain why or why not?
2. The author wants us to believe that Columbus was a man of his time (meaning many of the things Columbus did were not good by standards today, but may have been more acceptable during Columbus’ time) and show be remembered as a good guy. What details might this bias lead the author to leave out of his writing about Columbus?
3. How does this article inform (help you understand) what you already know about Columbus?

MLMS Marking the Text

* Underline things that are important
* ? = things that you have a question about
* Writing in Margins = Student thoughts as they read
* Circle vocabulary you don’t understand or have questions about

**Close Reading questions for “Columbus and Genocide”**

**First reading: Get the main idea and supporting details.**

1. What does this author claim is the reason Columbus was impressed with how peaceful the Taino Indians were?
2. What does the author say ten of his men could do to ten thousand of the Taino?
3. What were some of the ways Columbus assured the King and Queen of Spain that they could make money from the lands he ‘discovered’?
4. According to the footnote, who is Father Las Casas? How did he feel about Columbus and his treatment of Native Americans?
5. What did Columbus do to the Indians to get them “to learn our language so that they may disclosed what is in this land”?
6. What does the author say the phrase “seven ‘head’ of women” means? What does it have to do with cattle?

**Second reading: Author’s Craft**

1. Based on what the text says, what claim is the author making about Columbus? Does he think Columbus is a good guy or a bad guy?
2. What words or phrases does the author use to convince me he is right? Find three pieces of evidence he uses.
3. What does the author say Columbus journal entry from December 16 reveals about Columbus’ opinion about the Taino and what should happen to them?
4. All authors have bias in their writings. What are some words the author uses that show his bias? (Biased words usually show strong feelings or make us have strong feelings. They usually are not fair to other peoples’ opinions.)
5. Where is the author getting his information about Columbus from? Does he use direct quotes to support his position?

**Third reading: Making Connections and Putting it all Together**

1. Is the argument the author is making about Columbus convincing? Explain why or why not?
2. The author wants us to believe that even for his time, many of Columbus’ actions were not good and that he should not be remembered as a hero or great man. What details might this bias lead the author to leave out of his writing about Columbus?
3. How does this article inform (help you understand) what you already know about Columbus?

**Final Thoughts**

1. Which of these papers should is more credible (believable)?
2. Did the reading you chose as being more believable match what you thought about Columbus before we started this activity? If it did, are you sure that you are being fair to both sides of the argument? Explain why you believe
3. Where else could we look to find out more about Columbus?
4. Do we have enough evidence to make a reasoned judgement? Why or why not?