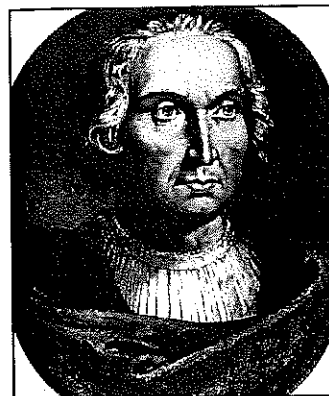


Class Set! Do not write on this page.

## Analyze a Student Model for Step 1

Read Alison's argumentative essay closely. The red side notes are the comments that her teacher, Mr. George, wrote.



Christopher Columbus

Alison Rodriguez  
Mr. George  
English 7  
September 29

### The Start of Something New

Don't be shocked, but Columbus didn't discover America! How we look at Columbus Day has changed over the years. In 1492, a man who never realized that he had not found a route to India changed the future of our world forever. His voyage began the recognition of the Americas by Europe. That is something worth celebrating.

Because of Columbus, other Europeans started coming to the New World. The Spanish conquistadors came searching for gold. They brought with them their Christian faith and their language. Would Latin America be Latin, if it wasn't for Columbus?

Later, settlers came for a better life and greater freedom, a fresh start in a new place. Jamestown, Plymouth Rock, and even New York were settled because of the interest sparked by Columbus' travels. The people who came brought their hopes, dreams, skills, and knowledge. They established colonies, which became villages, which grew into towns and cities. New York might be a different place today if Columbus had never sailed.

That Columbus Day is a school holiday is another reason for celebration. We really have too many school days, and a nice three-day weekend in October is really appreciated. Since we don't get a day off for Halloween, Columbus Day is a fair trade.

*Interesting hook.*

*The issue and your claim are clear.*

*Valid reason that supports your claim with evidence.*

*Good transition.*

*You make an excellent point!*

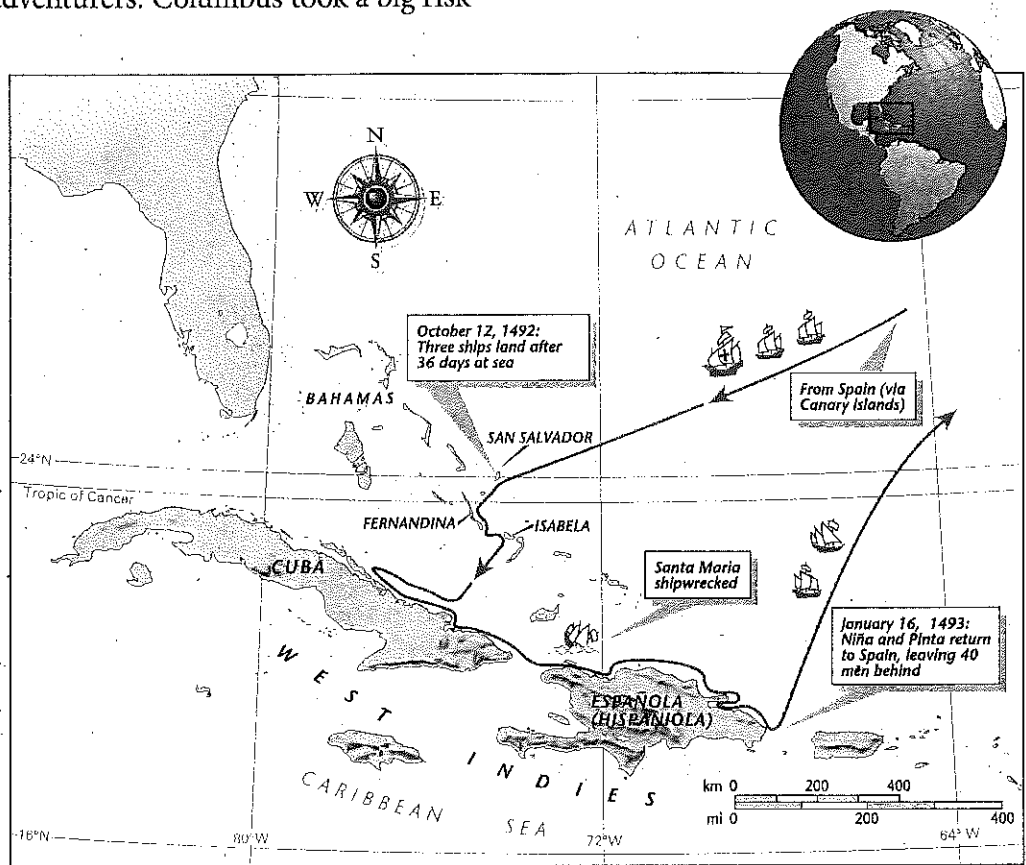
*Alison, I'm not sure that Halloween warrants a day off!*

Columbus Day is controversial, besides the fact that Columbus didn't discover America. Many different tribes of indigenous people lived in the Americas before 1492. Columbus enslaved the Taíno people he found living on the islands when he landed. We should be sensitive to the feelings of Native Americans, who were mistreated by white men for many years beginning with Columbus. But that doesn't mean we can't honor Columbus and other Italian Americans who made important contributions to our country and deserve to be recognized.

On Columbus Day we should consider our past and the debt we owe to adventurers. Columbus took a big risk sailing to places unknown. He had no way of knowing how his voyage would affect the world. We should recognize and celebrate Columbus Day.

You identified an opposing claim and responded with logical evidence.

Convincing evidence and smooth flow from beginning to end.



The map above shows a portion of the route Christopher Columbus took on his first voyage in 1492. He found the Taíno people living on the group of islands known today as the Bahamas.

### Discuss and Decide

Did Alison's essay convince you that Columbus Day should be celebrated? If so, cite the most compelling text evidence in her essay.