

Columbus Mock Trial:

Date: 10/19/16

Prosecution Team

Date: 10/21/16

GROUP MEMBERS:

Brown, Kuhrell (Witness)

Carter, Kam'Rahn (Witness)

Catule, Neissa (Closing Statement)

Coleman, Jordyn (Closing Statement)

Girgih, Raphael (Evidence)

Gurhan, Abdullahi (Witness)

Michel, Malcolm (Evidence)

Petrino, Cheyenne (Opening Statements)

Rosso, Melissa (Evidence)

Wallace, Tristan (Opening statement)

Opening Statement: (Cheyenne Petrino & Tristan Wallace)

Ladies and gentlemen of the Jury, we bring you here today on the case of Columbus. Who is Columbus, you may ask? Some see him as a “hero.” But if you thought Columbus was a good man, you must have thought wrong. Columbus “discovered” America, or so you say. But how can you discover something that already existed? A thriving population, a culture. You say he discovered this place and stumbled upon these people? We say he stole this place, and

murdered these people. He got rid of nearly an entire population, and for what? For gold, for his own good. It does not stop at genocide. We have the evidence to prove him guilty of extortion, slavery and the kidnapping of natives as well. So if your idol is Columbus, you might want to rethink the person you look up to.

People of the Jury, today my prosecution team and I will prove Columbus guilty of these charges, because this is the truth, and we have the evidence. Thank you.

Evidence: Charges: Extortion, Kidnapping, Genocide, and starting and continuing Slavery
(Raphael, **Melissa**, Malcom)

Quotes: Kidnapping evidence	Explanation:
“I had taken some Indians by force... in order that they might learn our language, and communicate to us what they knew respecting the country.” (Document B) ("Avalon Project - Columbus Documents :." <i>Avalon Project - Columbus Documents : 1400 - 1499</i>. Yjale Law School, 2008. Web. 24 Oct. 2016. .) “I ordered all persons fourteen years or older to collect three handful quantities of gold every three months for thy royal highness. As they bring it they are given copper tokens to hang around their necks. Those found without	In a letter Colombus had written to Sanchez he admitted to having kidnapped some of the Natives and taken them from the first Island that he first came to. You may argue that he did it for a reason. The reason being, that he wanted to have them learn his language. That way making it easier for them to understand each other, and able him to learn about the land he had “discovered”. Of course, it made much sense that he’d have to ask about the land he found. Shouldn’t he be the expert? Even then, i think he quite forgot to ask them

tokens shall have one hand cut off as punishment.” (Document E) ("Avalon Project - Columbus Documents :." <i>Avalon Project - Columbus Documents : 1400 - 1499</i>. Yale Law School, 2008. Web. 24 Oct. 2016. .)	about the land when he gave those poor natives he kidnapped impossible tasks, and then punished them for not being able to complete them. I don't remember him writing about "Exchanging information" in his diary. So no, his poor excuse does not matter, considering that it is a blatant lie, and he admitted himself to having committed the crime. It him against his words.
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Quotes: Slavery Evidence	Explanation:
"I will subject you to the yoke and obedience to the church and to his majesty. I will take your women and children and make them slaves...The deaths and injuries you will receive from here on will be your own fault and not that of his majesty nor of the gentlemen that accompany you.” (Document E) ("Avalon Project - Columbus Documents :." <i>Avalon Project - Columbus Documents :</i>	The same threats bestowed upon the Natives by the spanish requirement, were the ones that Colombus used to threaten them. The same requirements in which they threaten to enslave and harm their women, and children. Of course this was only just a threat...a punishment, for those who did not obey the king or convert to catholicism. Then again, some natives were not even given the

1400 - 1499. Yale Law School, 2008. Web. 24 Oct. 2016. .)

“...And we shall bind you to yoke of the church and of Their Highnesses; we shall enslave your persons, wives and sons, sell you or dispose of you as the king sees fit; we shall seize your possessions and harm you as much as we can as disobedient and resisting vassals.” (Document D)

("Avalon Project - Columbus Documents :."

Avalon Project - Columbus Documents : 1400 - 1499. Yale Law School, 2008. Web. 24 Oct. 2016. .)

“They would make fine servants.... With fifty men we could subjugate them and make them do whatever we want.” (Colombus and The Indians-Zinn, 1)(Steffoff, Rebecca, and Howard Zinn. *A Young People's History of the United States*. New York: Seven Stories, 2007. Print.)

“Columbus started his relationship with the Indians by taking prisoners, thinking that they could lead him to the source of gold.”

opportunity to make the choice. Why?

Because all those words in those very important requirement were not translated for them to understand. Colombus didn't seem to try and present the option when he saw just how vulnerable and easy to control they could be. Why give them the option to be free when it would benefit him much more to just enslave them. He had used their vulnerability against them and imprisoned them. He made them fetch gold for him, and payed them with amputation. He owned their time, their lives, and their freedom. Which is the exact definition of slavery.

(Colombus and The Indians-Zinn, 5)(Steffoff, Rebecca, and Howard Zinn. <i>A Young People's History of the United States</i>. New York: Seven Stories, 2007. Print.) “But too many slaves died in captivity. Columbus was desperate to show a profit on his voyage.” (Colombus and The Indians-Zinn, 7) (Steffoff, Rebecca, and Howard Zinn. <i>A Young People's History of the United States</i>. New York: Seven Stories, 2007. Print.)	
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Genocide Quotes	Explanation
“Natives of Indies Tortured by Theodore deBry, European artist from ‘A Short Account Of Destruction of the Indies By Bartolome de Las Casas (1542)’ (Document F) (<i>Avalon Project - Columbus Documents : 1400 - 1499</i>. Yale Law School, 2008. Web. 24 Oct. 2016. .)	This picture shows torture and the killing of so many Indies. You also see the Natives of Indies getting hanged over a fire. A quote that I found that fit this picture was in Document C, it stated “They took infants... snatching them by the legs and pitching them headfirst against the crags.” In document F you can see

	in the picture a man doing that to an infant. (Not necessarily pitching them headfirst against the crags but snatching them by the legs.)
“And the Christians, with their horses and swords and pikes began to carry out massacres and strange cruelties against them. They attacked the towns and spared neither the children nor the aged nor pregnant women nor women in childbed, not only stabbing them and dismembering them but cutting them to pieces as if dealing with sheep in the slaughter house.” (Document C) ("Avalon Project - Columbus Documents :." <i>Avalon Project - Columbus Documents : 1400 - 1499</i>. Yale Law School, 2008. Web. 24 Oct. 2016. .)	The Europeans did not care who they were killing. They did not spare anyone or give mercy to anyone, including children, elderly and pregnant women. This was a mass killing.j

“This was the first land in the New World to be destroyed and depopulated...” (Document C) ("Avalon Project - Columbus Documents :." <i>Avalon Project - Columbus Documents : 1400 - 1499</i>. Yale Law School, 2008. Web. 24 Oct. 2016. .)	The Key word in this quote is depopulated, meaning the the population decreased. Which was the cause of Columbus. Which also could mean the mass killing/ genocide of the Indies dying out.
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Malcolm's Evidence	Explanations
Extortion: “On my arrival at the sea, I had taken some Indians by force from the first island that I come to, in order that they might learn our language, and communicate to us what they knew respecting the country; which plan succeeded excellently, and was a great advantage to us...” (Doc. B) ("Avalon Project - Columbus	Christopher Columbus was using the idea of extortion.

Documents :." <i>Avalon Project - Columbus</i> <i>Documents : 1400 - 1499.</i> Yale Law School, 2008. Web. 24 Oct. 2016. .)	
"I ordered all persons fourteen years or older to collect three handful quantities of gold every three months for the Royal Highness. As they bring it, they are given copper tokens to hang around their necks. Those found without tokens shall have one hand cut off as punishment." (Doc. E) ("Avalon Project - Columbus Documents :." <i>Avalon Project - Columbus Documents : 1400 - 1499.</i> Yale Law School, 2008. Web. 24 Oct. 2016. .)	Christopher columbus, has taken these free people and has handed them a threat. He has planned on cutting their hands off if they didn't bring the exact amount that the asked for. This is very, very cruel to do to people.

3. **Witnesses:**

(Brown, Kuhrell)

Hello, I am a Taino man. I am here to tell you about the historical things Christopher Columbus did to me and my people during the time of his second voyage to Hispaniola. He and the rest of his Spanish soldiers were savages. When they first arrived to we tried to treat them with kindness and respect. We allowed them into our homes and fed them. We taught them about

us. They showed us things we had never seen before. Different tools and utensils they walked around with. The tools looked dangerous, but my people were afraid to ask about them.

They showed us thick, rectangle like things things, filled with many thin slices of a solid lightweight material. It had black scribings in rows. They called it the Bible. My people had now idea what the scribings meant, but it was clearly very important to the Spaniards. They tried to teach us about the thing and some man named God. We didn't understand what they wanted us to learn about their God and the thing. Soon they became very angry about us not understanding. They attacked us and did very horrible things. They tried to show my childhood friend about the thing, but he didn't know what was going on. In retaliation for him not complying they imprisoned him, his wife, his parents, and his two kids. They took his mother, wife, and daughter and raped them. I can hear their screams ringing in my ear till this day. They stripped them, beat them, and killed them using their strange tools. This upset my people. We tried to drive them out and make them leave our home, but they turned into animals. They killed everyone. Man, women, children, even babies. This was very painful to watch this happen. My people attempted to fight back, but we weren't strong enough. As everything quickly demolished the Spaniards stopped killing and starting holding my people captive. They put them on the giant things they arrived on. Many were taken and many were dead

I believe that their leader Christopher Columbus is at fault for the death of my people. O have know idea why they would do such a thing like this. He tried to comply and reason with them, but they didn't want to hear it. They made no effort to understand what we were about what so ever. They need to be brought to justice.

(Gurhan, Abdullahi)

My name is Akua Asya and I am an african slave that was brought to the caribbean on behalf of the decision of Bartolome De Las Casas who told Queen Isabella, and King Ferdinand to use african natives such as myself as a replacement for the Taino tribe, and any other indigenous people from that area. Not only was I forced to leave my home I was also separated from my family and all my friends. My whole world was turned upside-down. We were the replacement for those that already felt the pain and suffering of columbus and his men. They were already exterminated, almost all of the taino and other tribes had been murdered. Either by columbus and his crew, or by committing suicide to escape a more horrible death by the hands of columbus. Would you want to end your days on earth by being brutally abused, and then exterminated in front of your family as an example? I think not.

Not only did they force us to do their bidding and supply them for their benefit they also tried to change our ways of life. Couldn't they even have a little remorse for our ancestors and culture? We were forced to learn their language and had to become christian catholics at that. All of our mature men and women are dead, do you know anyone else who can pass on our genes, knowledge and love? Sometimes I stay up and cry, but I don't cry because of the physical abuse. I cry knowing that there are african mothers giving birth to more children this very moment. These women are like breeding machines, columbus and his men only want more. These children will grow up and can only look at the graves of their brothers, sisters, parents, aunts, uncles and so on. They will grow up with a twisted view on reality, that they only work for columbus and his men, and nothing else. Death doesn't seem so bad right now does it? I can see why mothers sacrificed their children, so that they wouldn't have such a horrible life. This

eternal nightmare was caused by columbus, his men, king ferdinand, and queen isabella. I hope you can clearly see as day why we accuse them of these charges. I think that it's funny how these people are actually being praised by many people, columbus even has a holiday. It feels as if you're commanding a demon.

(Carter, Kam'Rahn)

Hi, I'm a Spanish Soldier for the man Christopher Columbus himself. I'm here to tell you MY story on MY experience on the things we did when we got to that great land we found those Tainos on. Firstly, it was not my choice for what we did to those Indians, I was ordered by Columbus do to all the things we did. I will not lie though, I did enjoy what we did to them. Columbus's goal was to take them out of their own land and we achieved that goal.

Columbus said himself, " Should you fail to comply...we assure you that with the help of God we shall use force against you, declaring war upon you from all sides and with all possible means and we shall bind you to the yoke of the Church and their Highnesses; we shall enslave your persons, wives and sons, sell you or dispose of you...we shall seize your possessions and harm you as much as we can as disobedient and resisting vassals". And so we did. Killing them was so easy. It was like they were defenseless, not knowing the proper way to battle. To me, it was like a fun practice fighting session.

It was such an amusing time. This was one the few directions I got from Columbus that I actually enjoyed. We placed bets on who could cut a man in half with one swing. We swung babies into stone walls with no remorse then kill the parents. We laughed in the faces of babies as we threw them into the rivers. "Boil there, you offspring of the devil!" We would yell as we

threw them. The indians tried fighting us back with their weak weapons and that only made us laugh and more blood hungry. Anyone who dared to fight back we did not spare nor hesitate to strike them with our swords. Do I still look back to those days? Absolutely. But do I regret anything I did, NOT A CHANCE.

Closing Statements: (Jordyn and Neissa)

1. For most of history, columbus has always been depicted as a hero who “discovered” the Americas and brought the world together, but really, he brought many people into oppression and brought genocide on to the native people of the americas. Though this has caused people to look at him differently, many americans, out of patriotism, have decide to ignore this. He raped tortured, stole, and separated people from their homes and families. He treated the natives as if they weren't humans. They would bet on their lives as if there wasn't something as precious as life, being taken away. I don't think somebody who has done such things should still be considered as someone so great that's why my team is prosecuting Columbus for these crimes.

For years Columbus was portrayed as a noble man. This is before we knew that he raped women and children, stole from people, and committed genocide. He tortured babies by swinging them against rock walls, he hung and burned people over fires, he cut off people's hands knowing what he was doing. Columbus is no hero he deserves to be executed. Just think of all the babies killed, all the children and women raped, and all of the disabled people whose hands were cut off. Are we really going to let this man go free? Are we going to let this man walk our streets and watch him continue his wrong doings because he got away with all of this? I

THINK NOT, THIS MAN IS GUILTY!!!! Guilty of Extortion, Kidnapping, Genocide, and using the practice slavery. I rest my case.