

**Assignment:** Create a case brief for Columbus' trial. It needs to specifically address the issue and you must provide a holding with reasoning based on the facts. Your facts will be gathered from the evidence (documents) at your table. You may work in groups. However, each person must turn in a final brief for a grade. Included in your reasoning you must make claims with specific facts (evidence) to support each claim and cite which document you're using for each claim.

### The People vs Christopher Columbus

**ISSUE:** The Issue is the question that the court must answer in order to resolve the dispute between the parties. (For example: "Do the ramifications of Columbus' voyage (i.e. further exploration, globalization, eventual settlement etc....) outweigh the immediate costs, making him a praiseworthy figure?")

### **FACTS:**

**HOLDING:** The Holding is the court's answer to the Issue posed in the case. A weak statement of the holding to the sample Issue above would be "no." Although a "yes" or "no" holding might be technically correct, it may not be helpful. For example, if your professor asks you for the holding of Doe v. Doe, she is not asking for a simple "no" answer. Instead, incorporate into your Holding the language of your Issue and the main factual reason why the court answered the Issue the way it did. Your Holding should stand on its own. (For example, a good Holding to the above Issue would be, "The attorney-client privilege does not apply to the inmate's communications with the 'jailhouse lawyer' because the inmate did not believe that the 'jailhouse lawyer' was an actual attorney.")

**REASONING:** Probably the most important part of the case brief, the Reasoning section describes how the court resolved the Issue. Make sure to summarize all the logical steps the court took in reaching its Holding. Keep in mind that the court's rationale can come from several different sources and/or something particular in the facts.