|  | Columbus | Aztecs |
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| O | The journal entry was written by Christopher Columbus because of its first person point of view and direct address to the Spanish King and Queen. It was written in the October of 1492 as indicated in the date of each journal entry. Christopher Columbus was an Italian explorer whose voyage to America was recorded; Columbus’s voyage was sponsored by the King of Spain. | The Aztecs created this document. The document is created in the 1520s, by the Aztecs who survived from the massacre. We know that the author have suffered emotionally from the massacre, being the few who survived and loss loved ones. |
| P | The journal is written so the King and Queen of Spain can learn about Columbus’s voyage because the author addressed “your highness” multiple times in the journal. Columbus chose this format because journal entry is the typical method for travelers to record down the details of their trip in first person view. The documents tell about Columbus’s trip to America; each day’s adventure is recorded down by Columbus. This documents tell me that Columbus’s voyage is intended to find gold, treasure, spices, and other interesting objects because Columbus reiterated again and again is trip to find commerce and trade. | This document exists so the posterity can know about the massacre the Spaniards committed on their people, and it also warns the posterity to trust foreigners. The author chose this particular format because writing can permanently record down historical events. The intended audience of this document is for the posterity of the Aztecs, because all historical accounts of tribes, wether they are oral history or writings, are intended for posterity. The documents talk about the massacre of the Aztecs by the Spaniards after robbing the Aztecs of their jewelries. The reiteration of how bloody the massacre is and how the Aztecs were robbed by greedy Spaniards who were “slaves to their own greed”as mentioned in the document tells us the Aztecs’ loath for the Spaniards and their massacre and their mourn for the death of their people. |
| V | From this document, we learn that Columbus is new to America and pragmatic, possibly greedy, because he asks for a lot of help on where to get to Cuba. Columbus wrote that the gold they received is “inconsiderable” and that he needed to find the center of commerce. This shows that he is pragmatic because he doesn’t really stay on the island to deeply explore its flora and other traits different from the Old World. The piece was created from the daily exploration of Columbus because he talked about his plans in the future at the end of each entry. Columbus’s journal is from the perspective of an explorer who knows nothing about the island he is on because he doesn’t know exactly where to go for commerce. Spice was valued greatly at the time, which causes Columbus to consider the search of spices to be very important. | From the piece, we can tell that the author is distressed and angry because the bloody details of the massacre was reiterated emphatically and the Spaniards’ greeds are antagonized. We can tell that the piece is written after the massacre because it mentions about how the victims were dragged out and identified. The piece is created under fear and horror from the massacre because the intestines and spilling of the entrail was reiterated. The author represents the Aztec’s side and focuses on the evilness of the Spaniards. Back then, the Aztecs have never made contact with the Europeans. Thus, the King of Aztecs thought that the Europeans are gods reflects so. |
| L | Columbus does not tell us about how they landed on the island and the Native American’s actual view of Columbus. This journal entry, is one-sided because journal entries only shows one person’s view. Thus, we are un able to learn about how Columbus’s crew feel upon reaching the island or the true thought of the Native Americans. The author honestly mentioned this piece because it is a personal journal. Thus, the only limited is the one-sidedness. | We are unable to tell why the Spaniards want to massacre the Aztecs and how they planned it because of the author’s position as an Aztec. This piece is accurate, but leaves out the Spaniards’ reason behind their massacre. Spaniard’s goodwill to the Aztecs may have been unaddressed because of the perspective and position of the author. The Aztecs may have also avoided parts on the Aztecs intimidating the Spaniards. |

Columbus’s journal is a more reliable source for the historians because of two things: The formate and event. Columbus uses the formate of a journal, which can accurately express the event because personal journals are written from a person’s heart. This causes the journal to be more truthful than the Aztec’s recap of the massacre. An example is how Columbus expresses his truth about how he believes that staying on the island may be a waste of time compared to going to Cuba for trade because of the scale of the trade. Journals are truthful because it is not intended for a wide audience, avoiding any chance for the document to be biased for political means. The second reason Columbus’s journal is more accurate is because of the event that happened. The massacre of the Aztecs tend to be more dramatic and sentimental compared to Columbus’s journal describing the bland part of his voyage. The sentimental massacre causes the writing of it to be biased because of the author’s emotion, while the daily events of Columbus’s trip doesn’t arouse any purpose for bias because of the simple and uncontroversial event. Thus, Columbus’s journal is a more reliable source for the historians than the Aztec’s document of the massacre.