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Issue Columbus monument on Capitol grounds issues: -Not complete on Iowa's origins. (Nothing reflecting Natives or Pioneers) -Nothing educational, Italian Americans of Iowa's past prejudice is behind this monument. -No balanced historical perspective to teach Iowans. (No other monument to balance it out) -Inaccurate history of Columbus. (His origins, influence, the things he did in the Caribbean)

Project Description Our project in Mr. Weber's class (after studying Columbus and the discovery of America) was to either tweak the Columbus monument on the Capitol Grounds or to build a completely new monument. My group and I chose to build a new monument entirely, focusing more on Iowa's true roots. Our design highlighted key Iowan people groups, like the Sioux, Sauk, Mesquakie, and French fur traders. The monument depicts a group of Iowan Native American leaders sitting around a campfire, being approached by a group of French fur-traders. The monument has many plaques and signs where the viewers can learn more about what Native American life and Fur-trading life was like. This monument's message and our message as a group was that is unfair to be honoring a man that did not step foot in Iowa, let alone the continental United States, and we should be honoring the men and women who made Iowa what it is today. Alongside our design, my group and I created a website that could inform the public on the true history of our state. We knew the website wouldn't create change alone, so we wrote and sent a letter to our congressman informing them of our project, and suggesting change.

Project Outcome -Anyone is able to make change if what they want is well articulated and goes through the right process. -People in this country have more voice than just their vote. -An American doesn't have to be 18 years old or have a college degree to make change in their own and other's lives. -This project taught me a lot about what it means to have the freedom of speech and freedom to petition .

Request -Reading, writing, and math are important, but civics is just as important but is treated 2nd tier by our laws. -On a macro level, history/civics has no large impact on someone's educational future. (If I fail a civics class, I can still pass.) -Students need more access to civics. Democracy is based on the idea of participation, and what we are now is what we will be in the future.