This course provides an introduction to the cultural history of Spanish America from pre-Columbian times to the present. It is intended to prepare students for more advanced courses that address specific issues related to Spanish American cultures. It is a level-one course designed for beginning Spanish majors and minors.
Columbus’s Letter, *Insula hyspana* (1493)
Jan van der Straet, *America* (ca 1575)
Narratives of Early Encounters

• What *story* is being told in each image?

• How can we *characterize* the native and European *figures* in each image?

• How can we *characterize* the *surroundings* in each image?

• Name three significant *similarities* and three significant *differences* between the two images.
Narratives of Early Encounters
All the men I saw were young. I did not see one over the age of thirty. They were very well built with fine bodies and handsome faces… They do not carry arms or know them. For when I showed them swords, they took them by the edge and cut themselves of ignorance… I saw some who had scars on their bodies and I asked them by signs how they got these and they indicated to me that people came from other islands nearby who tried to capture them and they defended themselves. (October 12, 1492)
A few guiding principles for creating a TILE activity

• Establish (for yourself and the students) a clear learning objective for the activity.
• Give clear, succinct instructions.
• Use space and equipment (creatively!) to create a meaningful learning environment.
• Release the reins, but be ready to step in and clarify.