The Golden Gate to Success

The Golden Gate Bridge was not only a bridge, but it was a change in society that influenced so many. The Golden Gate Bridge “connects northern California to the peninsula of San Francisco” (Videon 255). It was built across the Pacific Ocean and was a “two mile passage” (Pendergast 372). This amazing innovation was significant because it was one of the “city’s defining symbols” (Barter 52). Today, this is still what San Francisco is best known for and it is a world landmark. Even as time has progressed, this bridge remains beautiful and well- known with no change. Over all the years, the innovation of this bridge has been so limited. This is because it was a huge advancement in technology and modern look there fore it “stands as a testament to the genius of modern bridge design” (Pendergast 372). It is such a unique design yet so gorgeous. It was “recently named one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern Day World by the Americans Society of Civil Engineers” (Barter 54). The Golden Gate Bridge is such an amazing design and it is such an amazing honor to be named one of these wonders. This Bridge deserves to be included in these wonders because it was a statement, but it wasn’t afraid to be a statement.

The amazing bridge was “built between 1933 and 1937” (Pendergast 372). For its time period, it was a very unique design that was looked at as odd to certain people. In my perspective, this design is very beautiful, but compared to other architecture in that time; it was so modern, yet it was almost strange then. In addition, it had “a cost of $35.5 million” (Videon 255). When I think of this time period, I think of the Great Depression, so to me, this innovation was just that much more unique. I would never think that something this expensive would have been created in such a devastating time. This bridge was not only expensive because of its abnormal design, but also because of its capacity. This bridge was a “total length of 8,981 feet” (Videon 255). It is such a long bridge so how is it able to stand? Well, there are cables on the bridge that hold it up. The cables stay up because “they are secured at each end by heavy anchors” (Miller 28). Also, the bridge expresses its uniqueness more by having “towers stand on either side of the bridge” (Videon 255). Lastly, this bridge has a “six-lane road and sidewalks” (Videon 255). This bridge was so unique and different especially at the time it was constructed, but that is what gave it its significance.

In addition to its uniqueness, the Golden Gate Bridge had other impacts on society. For example, the “number of ferryboats today is very small… because of the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge” because now that there is a bridge, there is no need for a ferryboat (Barter 32). Although it is one small impact, it affected society and the economy. The bridge also affected the economy because it brought a lot more tourists into San Francisco. This was a landmark therefore it was also a tourist attraction because of its individuality, but also because of its beauty. No one had ever seen anything like this bridge before and in addition to its beauty in the daytime, it has amazing lights in the nighttime. It is amazing and so beautiful. On windy days you have to be careful because it is “engineered to sway 27 feet from side to side” (Barter 52). Although it sounds dangerous, to my surprise “only twice have engineers closed the bridge due to swaying” (Barter 52). The Golden Gate Bridge is an extremely unique bridge that captures the essence of beauty as well as the innovation of technology. This was recognized for a long time and is still recognized today, just not appreciated as much because of its age. Despite all of the other bridges that have been built “The Golden Gate Bridge enjoyed 28 years of preeminence” (Corbett 111). This bridge has made so many world records. One of the records is because the “section between the towers is 4,200 feet long, one of the worlds longest spans” (Videon 255). In conclusion, the Golden Gate Bridge impacted society through many different ways.

Many people were involved in this process because there was a lot that had to be done in order to make this vision a reality. It all started out with “Emperor Norton, who was the first to propose the oddball idea of building a bridge across the Golden Gate” (Barter 35). Initially when the idea was proposed, everyone thought it was impossible and “no one took the idea of a bridge across the Golden Gate seriously… impossible or too expensive. There was an ocean underneath and it was about a two-mile passage, how could this ever be possible? Some men helped prove these disbelievers wrong; “Joseph B. Strauss was appointed chief engineer” (Videon 255). Next, “Irving F. Morrow designed the towers and selected the bridges distinctive rust color” which was an odd color and still is (Videon 255). Other people were appointed into head positions and then the construction begun. These fabulous workers “constructed [this bridge] to withstand strong tidal forces, wind, and earthquakes” (Videon 255). This bridge is amazing and is “universally recognized as a rare feat of human engineering that has enhanced nature’s pristine beauty” (Barter 7). In conclusion, this Golden Gate Bridge was not only a bridge, but it was a change in society that influenced so many.