

# Using two sources.

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## Instructions for Teachers

The purpose of the following activity is to allow students to examine two different sources—a documentary video and a collection of interviews—and write a paragraph based on these sources that either proves or disproves the thesis statement provided.

The two thesis statements are “Building the Bay Bridge was a remarkable achievement” and “Building the Bay Bridge was fun and safe.” Students will probably find that both sources agree about the first statement, while the second statement has evidence that could support either side of the argument.

While the interviews are very accessible, the video takes more work because some of the conclusions students draw are inferential rather than stated directly. An outline of the video is included below. While the best strategy would be to watch the entire video yourself, included are times (noted in number of minutes from beginning) where students might find the most useful information in helping them to answer the questions.

The documentary video can be accessed here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPeUwA4YtRg&feature=youtu.be>.

The video is about 25 minutes long, but is actually broken up into three smaller video clips.

### **Video One:**

0:00–7:00 The first clip is silent except for a jazzy soundtrack in the background. Therefore everything the students get from this clip will be inferential. Students might be able to pick up support for the first statement, “Building the Bridge was a remarkable achievement.”

### **Video Two:**

7:00–9:00 This is the beginning of the second clip. The introduction will help students gather information about the first statement. As the instructor you might want to have a pre-discussion with your class about what criteria they would have for calling something remarkable. Therefore, not every fact about the Bay Bridge (It has x # of steel, for example) makes it remarkable.

9:00–9:56 This portion of the clip has a lot of technical information on how the bridge was built.

10:30 Some information students could use about working conditions.

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11:53 Information about the tunnel through Yurba Buena, which could be used for the remarkable argument.

12:50 Pictures of workers walking on the bridge.

13:15 More information about the remarkable fact that everything fit together.

14:45–16:30 Information on working conditions.

20:40 The conclusion that will help with the remarkable argument.

**Video Three:**

21:32–22:50 An introduction to the video that discusses how remarkable the Bridge is.

22:50–End Pictures of cars crossing the bridge with a music backdrop. This will not help students with the activity but they might be interested in seeing that the bridge used to have both directions of traffic on the upper deck and what the cars used to look like.

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## Student worksheet

When historians try to find out what happened in the past they try to “corroborate” evidence. This means they try to find more than one piece of evidence to prove their point. In the following exercise you are going to use two different sources to help prove a point. The two sources will be the Interviews from people who worked on the Bay Bridge and the second will be documentary films made at the time the bridge was built.

For each statement below find at least one piece of evidence from the interview and one piece of evidence from the documentary to prove the statement to be true. Write a paragraph incorporating those two pieces of evidence.

The documentary video can be accessed here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPeUwA4YtRg&feature=youtu.be>

You teacher will provide you with copies of the interviews of Bay Bridge workers.

### **Statement One: Building the Bay Bridge was a remarkable achievement**

Evidence from the Documentary

Evidence from the Interview

Write a paragraph beginning with the sentence “Building the Bay Bridge was a remarkable achievement” and use your evidence to complete the paragraph.

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## When Sources Disagree

Sometimes sources tell different things—and then, to some degree, it’s up to the historians to decide which source to believe. The following statement is treated differently in the two sources available.

### **Statement Two: Building the Bay Bridge was fun and safe**

What evidence do the Interviews have about this statement? By reading the interviews would you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?

What evidence does the documentaries have about this statement? By watching the documentaries would you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?

Which of these sources do you find the most believable or credible? Explain why.

Write a paragraph either agreeing or disagreeing with Statement Three and give your evidence.