

Bridge Through Two Lenses

Track one event through an eyewitness and an engineer.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.6 "Analyze multiple accounts of the same event or topic, noting important similarities and differences in the point of view they represent."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that tell what happened. Circle one phrase in each of the last two paragraphs that shows what the writer notices, thinks, or feels, then number the circled phrases 1 and 2.

The Bridge That Moved

- ① On November 7, 1940, strong winds shook the Tacoma Narrows Bridge in Washington State. The bridge had opened only four months earlier. Its roadway moved up and down in large waves until a section broke apart and fell into Puget Sound. No people died, because drivers had been kept away after the bridge began twisting dangerously.
- ② An eyewitness who watched from a safe place near the bridge described its frightening motion. The writer noticed the roadway rising, dropping, and twisting in the wind. The account also tells about a dog trapped in a car left on the bridge. By focusing on what could be seen and heard, the eyewitness makes the collapse seem sudden and alarming.
- ③ An engineer who studied the collapse paid attention to different details. She explained that wind made the bridge deck twist, not just rise and fall. The bridge was too flexible for those winds, and its design did not control the twisting motion. Her account is calm and technical. It focuses on the cause of the failure and lessons for safer bridge design.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** Which event is described in the eyewitness and engineer accounts? Use one detail from each account to support your answer.

- 2** What does the eyewitness focus on, and which details show this point of view?

- 3** How is the engineer's point of view different from the eyewitness's point of view? Use evidence from the passage.

- 4** What important similarity do the two accounts share? How do their purposes differ?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 45 to 60 word museum caption that compares the two accounts. Include one similarity, one difference in point of view, and one detail from each account.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details that tell what happened. Circle one phrase in each of the last two paragraphs that shows what the writer notices, thinks, or feels, then number the circled phrases 1 and 2. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which event is described in the eyewitness and engineer accounts? Use one detail from each account to support your answer.	Both accounts describe the collapse of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. The eyewitness describes the roadway twisting and a trapped dog, while the engineer explains that wind made the deck twist.
2	What does the eyewitness focus on, and which details show this point of view?	The eyewitness focuses on the scary experience of watching the bridge collapse. Details include the roadway rising, dropping, and twisting, plus the dog trapped in a car.
3	How is the engineer's point of view different from the eyewitness's point of view? Use evidence from the passage.	The engineer focuses on why the bridge failed and how to make bridges safer. She explains that the bridge was too flexible and that its design did not control twisting.
4	What important similarity do the two accounts share? How do their purposes differ?	Both accounts describe the bridge moving and twisting in the wind. The eyewitness helps readers understand how alarming the event looked and sounded, while the engineer explains the cause and safety lessons.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Both accounts describe the Tacoma Narrows Bridge collapse and the force of the wind. The eyewitness presents the event as scary, noticing the bridge's wild movement and the trapped dog. The engineer uses a calm, technical viewpoint, explaining that the flexible deck twisted and that designers needed safer bridges.

Accept comparisons that identify a shared event or bridge movement and accurately contrast the eyewitness's alarmed observations with the engineer's technical explanation. Students should support both viewpoints with details from the passage.