# Bridge the Evidence

Study how two sources support an organized explanation

**7.P.4.1.A** "Compose informative essays and other written products using and citing evidence (e.g. facts, examples, details) from multiple sources and maintaining an organized structure."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline one fact from each named source and circle its citation. Then write 1 beside the opening idea, 2 beside a supporting detail, and 3 beside the closing idea to trace how the explanation is organized.

### A Bridge Built to Last

1. In 1883, a new route joined Manhattan and Brooklyn, which were separate cities at the time. The Brooklyn Bridge opened on May 24 after 14 years of construction (New York City Department of Transportation, "Brooklyn Bridge"). Before the bridge, travelers crossed the East River by boat. A permanent crossing changed what a trip between the two cities could look like. To understand why this bridge mattered, it helps to study both the difficult work of building it and the way it made travel more dependable.

2. Building the bridge took more than one person's ideas. Engineer John A. Roebling designed it, but he died before construction was far along. His son Washington directed the work until illness limited his visits to the site. Emily Warren Roebling then helped with communication and engineering tasks (National Park Service, "Brooklyn Bridge"). Workers also used steel wire to make the long suspension cables, an important change in bridge building (National Park Service, "Brooklyn Bridge"). The project shows how a bold design depended on people solving problems over many years.

3. The finished bridge offered a steady way across the East River for people walking and for vehicles. The New York City Department of Transportation records its 1883 opening and describes its connection between Manhattan and Brooklyn (New York City Department of Transportation, "Brooklyn Bridge"). The National Park Service notes that it was the first suspension bridge built with steel wire (National Park Service, "Brooklyn Bridge"). Together, these sources show two sides of the bridge's importance: it improved travel and tested a new building method. Its lasting value rests on both uses.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What main idea does the opening paragraph introduce? Name the two topics it says the explanation will cover.

2. Which source supports the bridge's opening date? Write the date and name the source.

3. Choose one detail from each named source that helps explain why the bridge mattered. Cite both sources.

4. How does the final paragraph use facts from both sources to build its closing idea?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five- or six-sentence museum label explaining how the Brooklyn Bridge was built and why it mattered. Begin with a main idea, include one fact from each named source with citations, and end with a closing idea in your own words.

**ANSWER KEY**

# Bridge the Evidence

**GRADE 7 · 7.P.4.1.A**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one fact from each named source and circle its citation. Then write 1 beside the opening idea, 2 beside a supporting detail, and 3 beside the closing idea to trace how the explanation is organized. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What main idea does the opening paragraph introduce? Name the two topics it says the explanation will cover. | **The bridge mattered because it connected Manhattan and Brooklyn. The explanation will cover the work of building it and its effect on travel.** |
| 2 | Which source supports the bridge's opening date? Write the date and name the source. | **The Brooklyn Bridge opened on May 24, 1883, according to the New York City Department of Transportation.** |
| 3 | Choose one detail from each named source that helps explain why the bridge mattered. Cite both sources. | **The bridge connected Manhattan and Brooklyn (New York City Department of Transportation, "Brooklyn Bridge"). It was the first suspension bridge built with steel wire (National Park Service, "Brooklyn Bridge").** |
| 4 | How does the final paragraph use facts from both sources to build its closing idea? | **It connects the transportation department's facts about the crossing with the National Park Service's steel-wire detail, then concludes that the bridge mattered for both travel and construction.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Brooklyn Bridge shows how a long building project can change daily life. It took 14 years to build and opened in 1883 (New York City Department of Transportation, "Brooklyn Bridge"). Emily Warren Roebling helped with engineering tasks when Washington Roebling became ill (National Park Service, "Brooklyn Bridge"). The completed bridge gave people a permanent route between Manhattan and Brooklyn. Its story joins careful teamwork with a new way to cross the East River.

Accept different accurate details when students cite the source that supports each one. For the museum label, look for a clear opening, an organized explanation using both sources, and a distinct closing idea.