Nickolaus Mooney

Two Perfect Pages

**Bridges**

To compare the most iconic bridges in the United States of America is a daunting task. The Brooklyn Bridge has been around for over 130 years, which alone is a testament to the level of craftsmanship that went into the engineering. I believe that the main reason it has not been changed is because of that fact alone.  It has been said that Roebling built the bridge six times stronger than was required. He also revolutionized suspension bridge construction with the steel web supports on both sides of the bridge which helped increase stability. Due to his forethought to build something so strong, the bridge has been able to handle the heavy traffic flow of New York City. It has become a mainstay of the New York landscape. Which I believe is why when photographs are taken of the bridge they tend to include the entire landscape of Lower Manhattan.  The appearance of the bridge has a very rustic feel to it. Which I believe, is because of when it was built. With lots of stone it has a blocky appearance which shows the age of the bridge, but also shows how far New York City has grown since the 1800's.

The Golden Gate Bridge is 50 years younger than the Brooklyn Bridge but is equally as iconic. The Golden Gate Bridge is also a suspension bridge, because of this it has a lot of the same revolutionary designs from the Brooklyn Bridge. Being a newer bridge there was no stone used in the construction. By this time the engineers had figured out how to use steel much more efficiently. The bridge is “flexible” to allow for swaying in the wind. The bridge is comprised entirely of steel and painted the iconic orange color, this makes it look much more contemporary or new age. Which I believe also had an alluring effect. When individuals were escaping the Dust Bowl and migrating to California, I believe that it acted as the Californian Statue of Liberty. All of this is exactly what the state was trying to create, which works well with the progressive beliefs of the state and the city. I also believe that they left the Golden Gate Bridge as more of a blank slate, in that they have added an amazing idea. They added a movable center barrier, which increased safety so that there were no head on crashes. Also, because it is movable they can increase the traffic flow in one direction over the other, helping speed up the commute times.  The way that the Golden Gate Bridge is photographed shows more of a serene type of setting. Usually with a lot of fog around the bridge to make it feel like it is floating on a cloud.