

Lake Washington Floating Bridge:  
How a concrete bridge transformed a region

A.J. Fite  
Junior Division  
Individual Exhibit

I chose my topic using the Washington State History Day Web Site, I did research into various categories that I was interested in and then looked at various topics within those categories. I then eliminated the topics until I was down to the three I was most interested in. I decided on the Lake Washington Floating Bridge from those three because I am familiar with it, I drive on it on a regular basis, but I knew none of the history behind it and was interested to learn more about it.

I conducted my research by first compiling a large notebook of Primary Source documents made up mostly of newspaper articles; I also found a few secondary sources mostly from HistoryLink.org and the various City Governments of the area. I then created a research outline and organized the different facts and quotes from the articles into a coherent structure. Then began plugging them into my site layout.

I selected the presentation category web site because technology is one of my strong suits. I have taken two web design courses and I am knowledgeable enough in web site design and HTML that the Weebly site editor actually hindered my creative ability.

My project relates to the National History Day theme because at the time of construction the Lake Washington Floating Bridge was the largest thing floating on the planet and a permanent concrete pontoon bridge was a highly innovative never before used bridge construction method. It is considered among the top engineering feats of the early 1900s.