Essay revision: Due Wednesday March 1

Your task in this assignment is to use the comments you have received to improve the draft essay you wrote previously. Your completed essay must not exceed 3 pages, including figures, although it is possible to receive a high grade with an essay shorter than 3 pages. The main goal of these revisions is to reduce the amount of factual content in the essay and increase the amount of structural interpretation, focusing on details of the structural form as much as possible. Emphasize the scientific over the symbolic and social for now. This is not a research paper, and so there should not be long stretches of factual summary of reference sources.

There are some requirements:

1. You must include an image or sketch

2. Your discussion of the scientific meaning must include discussion of what loads are acting on the structure and how they reach the ground.

3. You must address the aesthetics of the structure, but this critique should be related to your discussion of specific details of the structural form.

4. You must be specific in your aesthetic critique. Zero in on specific features of the structure as we have in class. How does the arch meet its foundation? etc.

Some suggestions:

1. If you are writing about a structure in class, try hard to draw out details that have not been covered in the lectures or readings.

2. It helps to give the scale of the structure (height, length, ...) in quantitative terms.

3. Avoid the impression that a negative critique of a structure as structural art precludes it from being important, or beautiful, or anything positive.

and some formatting requirements:

1. The essay must be double spaced.

2. All sources must be cited in a section at the end of the essay (this does not count towards your four pages). See http://www.ce.jhu.edu/perspectives/handouts_unprotected/citation_brief.pdf for instructions. Inclusion of uncited material is a serious oversight and breach of academic integrity.

3. Number all pages and staple together.

4. Include figures in the body of the text, number them, provide a caption describing the image, and refer to the figure by number in the body of the paper.

Grading: Revised essays will receive letter grades. A check or checkplus on the initial assignment does not guarantee a high grade on the final submission. Significant revision and improvement is expected. When handing in your essay, include a copy of the graded draft. Staple this copy to the back of your final submission.