

## Assignment 5: *Divided Highways* Writing Assignment

Answer the following question in no more than 2 (typed) pages:

**While the tunnel option has been selected as the preferred alternative by WSDOT, King County and the City of Seattle, and construction is slated to begin in 2011, there is still much debate over the best transportation solution following the removal of the existing Alaskan Way viaduct. Using themes from the documentary *Divided Highways* to support your answer, which Alaskan Way viaduct replacement option do you believe is the best? Choose one of the following replacement options: tunnel, elevated structure, or surface street (with additional transit).**

There is no right or wrong answer, this is an **OPINION** paper. While there are many technical or engineering reasons for selecting one alternative over another you should focus themes found in the movie to support your decision.

This is a writing assignment whose purpose is twofold:

1. **Allow you to reflect on engineering's social and environmental implications.** Often, we overlook this in favor of learning and discussing design techniques, equations, physical processes, etc.
2. **Present you with an opportunity to display your communication skills by writing a concise, articulate paper.** Clear and concise is preferred to long and verbose.

You will be graded on the quality of your writing. I expect your writing to be more technical than artistic. For instance, whereas a surprise ending is often good in a fiction book, it is not good in a technical article. Specific things I will look for are:

- **Introduction.** Are your thoughts organized and presented in a concise overview at the beginning of the paper? Does it give me an idea of what is to come?
- **Body.** Are your thoughts organized in a logical manner? Do they flow from one to the next? Are your opinions substantiated by evidence? Are you expressing your thoughts or just restating what you saw in the video?
- **Conclusion.** Does it summarize your thoughts? Can your conclusion logically be made from your thoughts discussed in the body? Do you refrain from introducing new subject material in the conclusion?