Monuments to Industrialization

In the last unit on Industrialization, you participated in three lessons: You looked at the industrial giants and determined who was a “captain of Industry” and who was a “Robber Baron.” You also then turned your attention to the conditions of labor by looking at testimony from workers and employers. You looked at data collected by the Massachusetts Bureau of Labor and determined what employees and employers thought about each other. Finally, you looked at a collection of statistics and quotes from famous leaders about America, labor and management on the cusp of the 20th century.

As you think about those three lessons, I want you to ask yourself a couple of questions:

1. What was the story that was told by the primary sources you examined? In other words, what was industrialization like for America?

2. Who benefitted by the economic changes brought by industrialization? Who did not benefit by the economic changes brought by industrialization?
Design a monument to industrialization. Think about what would be on it and what it would look like. Think of a monument as a “thought object.” Your monument is to make your audience be engaged – engaging their intellectual and emotional intelligences. Your monument needs something of visual interest and a plaque or short description.

Once you have drawn your monument proposal, answer the following questions:

1. What did you consider was important enough to put into your monument? Why those items?

2. What are visitors to your monument suppose to feel? Respond to? React to?