

### **Part One: Reading**

**Read the following selection carefully, and then answer the questions that follow.**

1. In 1808, a creative engineer named John Roebling was inspired by an idea to build an amazing bridge connecting New York with the Long Island. However, bridge-building experts throughout the world thought that this was an impossible task and told Roebling to forget the idea. It just could not be done. It was not practical. It had never been done before.

2. Roebling could not ignore the vision he had in his mind of this bridge. He thought about it all the time and he knew deep in his heart that it could be done. He just had to share the dream with someone else. After much discussion and arguments he managed to convince his son Washington, an up and coming engineer, that the bridge in fact could be built.

3. Working together for the first time, the father and son developed theory of how it could be achieved and how the obstacles could be overcome. With great excitement and motivation, they listed their costs and began to build their dream bridge.

4. The project started well, but when it was only a few feet in underway a tragic accident on the location took the life of John Roebling. Washington was injured and left with a certain amount of brain damage, which resulted in him not being able to walk or talk or even move.

"We could never do it."

"That was not our dream."

"It's foolish to chase wild dreams."

5. Everyone had a negative comment to make and felt that the project should be scrapped since the Roeblings were the only ones who knew how the bridge could be built. In spite of his handicap, Washington was never discouraged and still had a burning desire to complete the bridge and his mind was still as clear as ever. He told