Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Class\_\_\_\_

“The Men Who Built America” Worksheet

1- What was the risky and surprising move that Vanderbilt took after building his shipping business?

2- How much was Vanderbilt worth in today’s dollars by the end of the Civil War?

3- After closing his bridge to his competitors what did Vanderbilt do to further increase his railroad empire?

4- How did Vanderbilt try to take control of the Erie Rail line?

5- How was that plan foiled by Fisk and Gould?

6- What was the product that Vanderbilt decided to focus on to improve his business?

7- The video discusses the motivation that drives people like Vanderbilt not being money. What is their motivation?

8- After looking at how Vanderbilt built an enormous empire and personal wealth consider how his effort might have impacted average Americans. How could have Vanderbilt’s work been beneficial to average workers in America?

How could his work benefit average American consumers?

How could his work harm average American workers?

How could his work harm average American consumers?

9- Is Vanderbilt someone that you would call a hero or a villain? Make a claim and support your claim with three pieces of evidence.