

Bednar

Roadside America

**Individual Project # 2: Critical Connections Analysis of American Road Nonfiction**

Due in class August 29, 2024

**Prompt:** *Read all the assigned readings for the day and then choose a single quote (between one and three sentences long) from either Steinbeck, Smith, Dembling, or Gough that represents for you the author's main idea about automobility, and use it as an anchor for an essay that compares and contrasts all four of the readings for the day.*

**Notes:** How you structure the essay is up to you, but to do the assignment effectively, you'll need not only to describe, contextualize, analyze and interpret the passage (What does it mean? Where does it exist in terms of the storyline? How does the idea you are emphasizing grow out of the story? How does it relate to other ideas that the author presents? Etc.), but also explore how the quote and idea compares and contrasts to some of the specific ideas and events of the three other nonfiction pieces you read alongside it. While it is not a requirement of the assignment, you should feel free also to bring other readings we have done earlier in the semester in for context. Refer to the handout for Critical Connections Essay 1 for more general advice on writing Critical Connections Essays.

**Constraints:** Two pages, word-processed, double-spaced, with a clearly identified central quote and direct citations to Steinbeck, Smith, Dembling, and Gough, and a Works Cited section at the end of the essay (no need to put it on a separate page). Submitted at the beginning of class in the due date in hard copy form, with the Honor Code written out and signed by hand.