

Bednar

Roadside America

**Individual Project #3: Critical Connections Analysis of Scholarship on American Automobility/Car Culture**

Due in class September 17, 2024

**Prompt:** *Write a short essay describing and connecting the four assigned scholarly articles (2 from Lezotte, and one each from Bloch and Cann) that we have recently read, showing how each article uses researched analysis of a specific aspect of automobility to make larger claims about American automobility in general.*

**Notes:**

All four of these scholarly articles go into a lot of depth in analyzing a particular phenomenon within automobility, but they also frame their arguments in terms of what these smaller-scale phenomena mean for the larger-scale cultural history of American automobility. Since we are building up to your own research paper that will be similarly focused and framed as a micro analysis that makes a macro claim, use this Critical Connections assignment to explore how these authors use these detailed case studies to reveal something about the larger historical or contemporary culture(s) of automobility in the U.S. To do that effectively, you will need to characterize each author's main thesis as well as describe the things they analyze to show that thesis (and how they analyze them), and show some patterns you notice across all 4 essays.

This approach is essentially what scholars call a "literature review," which scholars use to provide context for their arguments by showing what other scholars have contributed to the "the literature" on a particular subject so they can show how their work both responds to and contributes to that previous work. This is an important component of any research paper written in any academic discipline, including the one that we will produce in this class, so we are using this assignment to give you practice working with the format.

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 direct citations to Lezotte 2013, Lezotte 2105, Bloch, and Cann, 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.