

Bednar
Roadside America

Georgetown Stories Collaborative Project

This project is designed to introduce you to Georgetown as a place while also helping you see how the central city is organized in relation to automobility, and to give you experience working with others to produce an informative and engaging presentation.

Fieldwork:

The main goal for the fieldwork is for you to work with your partner(s) to design a road-based adventure in Georgetown that shows you the central part of town and pushes you to meet at least one stranger in town so that you can come back and show and tell us your collaborative Georgetown Story in class. Here are the details:

Starting from campus, drive wherever else and however long you want, but along the way you must drive the part of University Ave. between SU and Austin Ave. and then cruise the entire length of Austin Ave., from the Inner Loop to the South to the I-35 Junction to the North, and you must visit the Square (bounded by Austin Avenue, Main Street, 7th Street and 8th Street).

At the Square, you will get out of your car and walk the entire Square around the Courthouse, noticing the different things that are there at the Courthouse and Courthouse grounds as well as all the businesses ringing the Courthouse. While you are walking around the Square, do whatever you can to meet at least one person you do not know and ask them to tell you a story about what makes Georgetown distinctive as a place to them compared to other places they know. Ideally, these people will agree to be photographed so you can show them to us, and the more people/stories the better.

While you are on University Ave. and Austin Ave., you must also locate and photograph some relics from previous periods of Georgetown's history of automobility. Before Interstate 35 was built in the 1960s, Austin Ave. was called US Highway 81 and used to be not only the main drag in town but also the main North-South highway to get from here to Austin (and, the other way, to Dallas). University Ave. is still the main highway in and out of town going East-West. There are currently at least 7 businesses on Austin Ave. and 4 on University Ave. that are housed in a re-purposed filling station, gas station, or convenience store. You must locate at least 3 of them on Austin Ave. and 2 of them on University Ave. and photograph them. These photographs need to be integrated into your larger Georgetown Story somehow. We'll talk about the logistics of presenting these pictures later.

Presentation:

Each group will have 5 minutes to present your collaborative Georgetown Story to the class. Your Story should be about what you and your partner(s) noticed about Georgetown as a place compared the places where you come from and other places you know--especially in relation to automobility--incorporating what you learned from the people you interviewed. The presentation should include slides from Google Slides, Canva, Prezi, or PowerPoint, done show-and-tell style with not only words but pictures (and souvenirs if you have some). The presentation must be fully collaborative, where each partner in the group visibly works to share equitably in the work of showing and telling your story to the class.