INTRODUCTION

Hook	Road travel has long occupied a central place in Americans' lives, as the corpus portrays.
Link	
Presentation of the documents	The *PBS* article (document 1) presents road trips as transformative experiences, while *TIME Magazine* (document 2) describes Route 66 as an icon of freedom and reinvention. However, Dorothea Lange's photograph (document 4) reveals the harsher reality of displacement during the Great Depression. The National Park Service essay (document 3) situates Route 66 within its historical context, bridging these views.
Key issue	To what extent does the road reflect both adventure and survival in American culture?
Outline	Seen as a symbol of freedom, the road may also be a means of survival, which helps explain its enduring status in American cultural heritage.
	(105 words)

Plan synthèse:

I. The Road as Freedom, Adventure, and Self-Discovery

- **PBS article**: Kerouac's *On the Road* → spontaneous adventure, thrill, personal discovery; road trips as identity-shaping experience.
- **Time article also pictures a romantic, almost sacred vision of route 66** → freedom, reinvention, escape. The road is seen as a myth.
- **Dorothea Lange**: contrast with hope and resilience visible in migrant faces → journey as opportunity for transformation.
- **NPS essay**: Post-WWII leisure travel, family vacations, national parks → road as enjoyment, exploration, and democratization of mobility.

Key idea: The road embodies the American dream of freedom and self-discovery, with opportunities for adventure and reinvention.

II. Hitting the Road can be a means of survival

- **TIME article**: Feininger's Route 66 photo evokes the "blank slate" of the West → journey as reinvention but with undertones of challenge and solitude.

- **That's what → Dorothea Lange (*Migrant Mother)*** pictures : iconic visual of Dust Bowl migrants → forced migration, hardship, struggle for survival.
- **Yet, NPS essay** insists on → survival, economic opportunity in the Dust Bowl context → Depression-era migration west along Route 66
- **PBS article also highlights** the challenges African American travelers had to face on the road. Green Book → not everyone could travel freely; road as a source of danger and exclusion.

Key idea: The road can be a path of necessity, danger, and survival, not only a leisure activity.

III. The Road as Cultural Symbol and Heritage

- **Dorothea Lange**: historical documentation → the road preserves collective memory of migration and hardship.
- **PBS article**: storytelling of road experiences → how personal and social narratives create a cultural memory; inclusion of women, African Americans.
- **TIME article**: Media, films, songs → Route 66 becomes a national myth, an icon of American imagination.
- **NPS essay**: Decommissioning of Route 66, preservation programs, National Scenic Byways → recognition of the road as a historical and cultural landmark.

Key idea: Beyond physical travel, the road is a cultural artifact representing American history, identity, and collective memory.

Conclusion

The road in American culture functions on multiple levels — survival, freedom, and myth. Each document shows a facet: hardship (Lange, PBS, NPS), adventure and identity (PBS, TIME, NPS), and enduring cultural symbolism (TIME, NPS).

Debate: *"Traveling along Route 66 is still worth it today."*