

COMPARE & CONTRAST:

“*The Image of the City*” by Kevin Lynch and “*Performing Tourism, Staging Tourism*” by Tim Edensor.

My observation of the two articles is that the two authors took different approaches and outline different meanings when it comes to performance. Firstly, both articles “The Image of the City” by Kevin Lynch and “Performing Tourism, Staging Tourism” by Tim Edensor agree that Tourism and Cities do not exist alone because they “takes place within meaningful spatial context,” (Edensor) and “nothing is experienced alone, but victim to its surroundings.” (Lynch) Another aspect of the articles that can similarly relate is when Lynch talks about Legibility; which is clarity and how easily something is understood and / or organized. Likewise, Edensor talks about Tourists choreography “dance” routine of the tourists as being partially controlled because the tour personnel explains to them the norms, path, places they should know to go and experience. To me those set of instructions are easily legibly.

One major difference between the two that jumped out at me was when I came across “Building the Image” section from Lynch’s article. My understanding there was that city planners are the main people to organize and create how the environment looks. Where as in Edensor’s article “tourism emerged in an unplanned and contingent process and unplanned bricolage of structures and designs provides a contrasting aesthetic context.” On one hand, city planners are the root of the cities by providing the means of how people experience the environment, but on the other hand these contrast in the city happened naturally. I believe both cases are correct when put into context even though they have opposing views. For instance, theaters and playhouses transformed Times Square in the 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century, during the same era city planner Robert Moses was influential in the transformation of New York metropolitan areas respectfully.

Finally, I noticed in the section “Structure and Identity” from Lynch’s article he talks about the components of environmental image and outlines them which are; “(identification of the object, pattern of the object in context to its surroundings, object has meaning to its observer)” as separate entities but they “always exist together.” Where as in Edensor’s article outlines how to stage tourism and produce drama with sub-categories from my understanding which are; how tourism stages are produced, how tourism stages are regulated, how tourism stages are represented, and how tourism stages are maintained. However, he *does not* claim that those categories “always exist together” which means that one can assume that by using one subcategory he should be able to achieve his goals when used individually in contrast to Lynch.