

bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, the People have a right to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such a manner as to secure them the best Security and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly we have suffered long by abuses which have in themselves no inherent Vice, but our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. Now in the course of these transgressions, we have petitioned for redress in the most humble manner, but have only received repeated injuries and oppressions from the powers we were bound to obey. In the most humble manner, we have petitioned for redress in the most humble manner, but have only received repeated injuries and oppressions from the powers we were bound to obey. In the most humble manner, we have petitioned for redress in the most humble manner, but have only received repeated injuries and oppressions from the powers we were bound to obey.



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A Contemporary American Interpretation of Pound's "Blast" and "Bless"

I quite enjoyed this assignment! Anything that allows me to combine literature and graphic design is a welcome change of pace! I used Photoshop to create a contemporary American interpretation of Ezra Pound's publications "Blast" and "Bless." In "Blast," Pound shines a spotlight on the diverse array of that he and those of the same school of thought disliked about England. His many gripes weren't all necessarily serious in nature. For instance, he seems to lament London's dreary weather when he writes, "Curse the flabby sky that can manufacture no snow but can only drop the sea on us a drizzle" (Pound 12). He does express a number of social shortfalls. For example, he curses snobbery, calling it a the "disease of femininity" (15) as well as fear of ridicule, which he refers to as the "arch vice of the inactive and sleepy" (15). Conversely, in "Bless," Pound highlights the many things he loves about England. His list runs the gamut, spanning from English hairdressers who "hourly ... ploughs heads for sixpence" (25) to English humor, which he proudly asserts is "the great barbarous weapon of the genius among races" (26) to a host of individuals (i.e. James Joyce) and organizations (i.e. Salvation Army). Pound's format is chaotic, cryptic, and experimental. It's impossible to understand or absorb everything conveyed in "Blast" and "Bless," but I think that is, in large part, by design. His ultimate goal is to get people to think and question.

My contemporary American interpretation of "Blast" and "Bless" is more direct. Because we live in a society with an increasingly short attention span, I wanted to the images to express just as much as the words, so that even if no one takes the time to read every item on the list, they can understand the theme and message with just one glance. In my interpretation of "Blast,"

I try to pinpoint many of the issues plaguing our society today. Black Lives Matter, police brutality, President Trump, coronavirus, racial divisions—they are all encapsulated in a fist that has become synonymous with strength, solidarity, and power. Behind the fist, on the colors of the American flag, are the words to The Declaration of Independence, because what the country stands for and the principles upon which it was built stand in stark contrast to the events playing out in present-day America.

For my interpretation of “Bless,” I used another famous hand—that of The Statue of Liberty’s whose torch lights the way to freedom and liberty. In the background are words that convey what America still, in many ways, represents. Independence, freedom, democracy, prosperity, opportunity, and much more. In the spirit of Pound’s amalgam of the serious and not-so-serious, I also included things that are pure Americana, like baseball and apple pie.

Again, this assignment was so much fun! I hope you enjoyed the end product as much as I enjoyed creating it.