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Composing Digital Media

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Visual Project Artist’s Statement

I found the materials through Google Images. All were labeled for reuse, insofar that I could gather. Provided at the end are links to all the image sources.

In terms of the writer/designer’s right to use source materials, a few things are at play. Any writer/designer may use material for educational, commercial or non-commercial reuse, if the source license allows. Under those reuses, the writer/designer may reproduce the source material in its entirety or modify it. And under many source licenses, the original author/s must be credited for their work. This is for intellectual and creative honesty and accountability.

My goal in creating this dystopian ballot was to highlight the realities of the refugee crisis that occurred in Europe. I think this aspect was the easiest to arrange and communicate. Most challenging was simply figuring out which images to select and how to us GIMP. Using this program made me realize how infuriating digital image manipulation can be. The affordances are amazing—I can download any image available on the web, or scan any image I want and tinker with it. However, that tinkering requires knowledge of the program. On this point, I got caught. My solution was to deal with the constant manual manipulation in a form which I have little versing. Troublesome, but I dealt with it.

I tried my best to pair the visual elements with the “ballot options” they best corresponded to. The sequencing, though, of the ballot options didn’t seem to matter—I played around with a few arrangements, but none of them seemed to afford any different tone or mood than any others. They evoked the essence of the category they fit into, not any other order underneath that. I tried to align everything to look as even on the page as possible. The headings and text are as centered as can be, and I tried to align the images well. In terms of emphasis, I employed this alongside contrast, insofar that I wanted to show the deep differences between the two sides linguistically and visually.