

Breaking Barriers:

Revolutionary Industry Reforms  
from the Pen of  
Upton Sinclair

Laura Slama

Senior Division

Individual Exhibit

Student-Composed Words on Exhibit: 494

Process Paper Word Count: 500

## Process Paper

I discovered the topic of Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* while reading through a novel that addressed environmental issues in the 20th century. Upon reading an introduction of the general topic, I wondered how one novel could have such an immense impact on legislation and the health of consumers. Considering this inquiry, I researched and developed a thesis; One of the first exposés that directly addressed the wrongs of a large corporation, Upton Sinclair's novel, *The Jungle*, paved the way for legislative change in the meat production industry, affecting the modern health and labor laws of today.

In order to achieve a general understanding of the topic, my research began through a search of secondary sources. Through this research, I narrowed down the focus of my topic and developed my thesis. Once I had collected an adequate amount of secondary sources, I researched further by exploring the National Archives and Library of Congress for primary sources that would deepen my understanding of the topic past an initial search. Through these archives, I found a wide variety of exchanged letters, newspaper clippings, and images that directly supported my thesis and research points. These primary sources were key in developing a thesis about how influential Sinclair's novel was in society. During my period of research I also visited a local library and read sections of *The Jungle* in order to further understand the topic. From this, I took note of pages that would give context to and deepen the viewer's understanding of the novel itself.

After much thought and consideration, I concluded that an exhibit would be the most effective way to show the information I found. Through my research, I found a variety of primary sources such as letters that had connected to each other in a chronological order.

Because of this, I had decided that it would best show the exchange of letters through a physical representation in an exhibit. Along with this, I concluded that splitting the various aspects of my topic into sections within an exhibit would be the most effective way to display my research, as the organization of the information is easy for a viewer to follow. The press was very active in this period of time, therefore there were many political cartoons and images from newspapers available in the archives. I concluded that an exhibit would be the most effective way to display these sources because it allows the viewer to relate more personally to the information.

*The Jungle* was major in its recognition for breaking barriers in the 20th century. It was the first novel and text that directly addressed conditions within a corrupt industry without sugarcoating the details, a feat that was unheard of before this because of the societal standards of the time. By breaking this barrier, it had opened the eyes of the public and paved the way for new reforms, inspections, environmental protections, and modern working rights from the Agriculture Appropriations Act, not to mention the overall consumer health of today.

## Annotated Bibliography

### Primary Sources

Agricultural Department Appropriations. *Fifty-Ninth Congress*. United States Congress, 1906.

[www.loc.gov/law/help/statutes-at-large/59th-congress/session-1/c59s1ch3913.pdf](http://www.loc.gov/law/help/statutes-at-large/59th-congress/session-1/c59s1ch3913.pdf).

Accessed 6 Dec. 2019.

This document, passed in 1906, is from the Department of Agriculture, specifying appropriations and agricultural regulations. It's an official document that institutes the requirement of inspection from government officials before packaging meat in the packing industry. It addresses the importance of correct labeling, requiring inspection for that component as well as the meat itself.

Coster, Gordon. Packinghouse Union workers gathered near meat packing plants, Chicago.

Photograph. *icp*, 1944,

[www.icp.org/browse/archive/objects/packinghouse-union-workers-gathered-near-meat-packing-plants-chicago](http://www.icp.org/browse/archive/objects/packinghouse-union-workers-gathered-near-meat-packing-plants-chicago). Accessed 19 Dec. 2019.

This photo, taken by Gordon Coster in 1944, shows a union of workers forming near a packinghouse in Chicago. This is significant to the topic because unions such as this originated from the influence of Sinclair's novel. It shows the viewer the impact from a workers' standpoint.

Editors of Appeal to Reason. "The Jungle: A Story of Chicago by Upton Sinclair." *Appeal to Reason*,

[Girar], 25 Feb. 1905, p. 1.



This newspaper clipping from *Appeal to Reason* is an editorial of Upton Sinclair's novel. This was included in the exhibit because it was the first public showing of *The Jungle*, which sparked interest and publicity to his name and story.

Hassman, Carl. *The Meat Market*. Drawing. *Library of Congress*, 1906,  
[www.loc.gov/item/2011645899/](http://www.loc.gov/item/2011645899/). Accessed 22 Dec. 2019.

This drawing is by an artist named Carl Hassman that was composed for *Puck*, a newspaper from 1906. The image portrays labels on the meat and canned goods that show deficiency such as 'decayed roast beef' in the product, as to say that they are damaging to the public's health. This artwork contributed majorly to the exhibit by providing a perspective from journalists in the general public in response to *The Jungle*.

H.C. White Co. "Chicago - Meat Packing Industry - Swift & Co.'s Packing House: cutting up hogs, removing hams and shoulders." Photograph. *Library of Congress*, 1905,  
[www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2006679961/](http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2006679961/). Accessed 22 Dec. 2019.

This photograph, taken in 1905, accurately portrays the production process of meat in a major industry such as Swift & Co. Packing House. This detailed photo provides the viewer with a clear understanding of the unsafe conditions within the lengthy process.

Kjoberch, Chris. Free Speech Movement leader Mario Savio leading student protestors at the University of California, Berkeley. Photograph. 1964. *Museumca.org*,  
[picturethis.museumca.org/pictures/free-speech-movement-leader-mario-savio-leading-student-protestors-university-california-be](http://picturethis.museumca.org/pictures/free-speech-movement-leader-mario-savio-leading-student-protestors-university-california-be). Accessed 18 Dec. 2019.

This photograph, taken by a photographer named Chris Kjobech in 1964, shows a free speech movement in Berkeley California. This photograph is used as a visual to show that Sinclair's novel pushed through a barrier that led to an enablement of free speech.

Lith, J. O. *Watch the Professor*. Drawing. 1906. New York. *Library of Congress*,  
[www.loc.gov/item/2011645894/](http://www.loc.gov/item/2011645894/). Accessed 22 Dec. 2019.

This drawing, created by J. O. Lith, was made for *Puck*, a newspaper in 1906. This political cartoon is a satire that portrays a man 'sending' waste through Packingtown and labeling it as pure meat products. This artwork contributes the perspective of public opinion from journalism.

Pach Brothers. *Theodore Roosevelt*. Photograph. 1913. *Library of Congress*,  
[www.loc.gov/item/2010645496/](http://www.loc.gov/item/2010645496/). Accessed 22 Dec. 2019.

This photograph, taken in 1913, is a portrait of Theodore Roosevelt during his presidency. This image provides viewers a visual of Roosevelt in the early 1900s, further advancing their understanding of the topic.

Roosevelt, Theodore. Letter to the House of Representatives recommending the enactment of an inspection act for meat packaging. June 4, 1906. National Archives Catalog.

Theodore Roosevelt wrote a letter to legislation that appealed for an important law be passed, as well as an immediate investigation to be conducted. This law would allow government inspection in the meat-packaging industry in order to protect the health of consumers. The inspection would include supervising the process and preparation to ensure the safety of the meat for consumers.

Sinclair, Upton. Letter to Theodore Roosevelt regarding his recommendation of action in response to his book, *The Jungle*. March 10, 1906. National Archives Catalog.

Upton Sinclair wrote a letter to Theodore Roosevelt regarding his recommendation to take legislative action in response to his book, *The Jungle*. He discussed his points of the importance of the meat-packing conflict, describing some of the disturbing conditions within the industry. He recommended that Roosevelt find a trusted inside source to send to the Packingtown as further evidence of its cruelty, then after, to discuss legislation in the Department of Agriculture.

Sinclair, Upton. *The Jungle*. DoubleDay, Jabber & Company, 1906.

This book, written in 1906, was a story that exposed the appalling conditions of Chicago's Packingtown, a meat production and packing industry. Along with its health issues that impacted the public consumers, it addressed many ethical conflicts. It opened the eyes of the public, and he became labeled as a "muckraker." This novel influenced the creation of the Meat Inspection Act of 1906, following the development of more laws that protect the modern day health of consumers.

---. *A Half Mile of Pork (2 rows of pigs hanging up) at Armour's Great Packing House, Chicago, Ill.*

Photograph. 1897. *Library of Congress*, [www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2006679966/](http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2006679966/). Accessed 22 Dec. 2019.

This detailed photograph, taken in 1897, shows two rows of pigs hanging at the large meat processing industry of Armour's Great Packing House. Partnered with another similar photograph that was taken in 2013, this photo is meant to provide the viewer with a 'before' perspective on the storing conditions within the industry.

---. *German packing house, cutting up meat*. Photograph. 1916. *Library of Congress*,  
[www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2014705586/](http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2014705586/). Accessed 22 Dec. 2019.

This photograph, taken in 1916, shows the cutting process of meat within an early packinghouse. The photograph, partnered with a similar later one, provides the viewer with an early perspective on the unsanitary conditions within many packinghouses.

---. *President Theodore Roosevelt (3/4 face)*. Photograph. 1902. *Library of Congress*,  
[www.loc.gov/item/2005677947/](http://www.loc.gov/item/2005677947/). Accessed 18 Dec. 2019.

This is a photograph found from the Library of Congress. The early portrait shows Theodore Roosevelt in 1902 during his presidency. This photograph accurately portrays Roosevelt during the time period that the legislation relevant to the topic took place.

## Secondary Sources

Arthur, Anthony. "Upton Sinclair." *The New York Times*, 2006,  
[archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/ref/timestopics/topics\\_uptonsinclair.html](https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/ref/timestopics/topics_uptonsinclair.html).  
Accessed 9 Mar. 2020.

This article from the New York Times is a source that goes into depth about Sinclair's life and intent of *The Jungle*. Within this article, there is thoughtful analytical text that explains Sinclair's original intent of his novel.

Biography.com Editors. "Upton Sinclair." *A&E Television Networks*, 21 Nov. 2019,  
[www.biography.com/writer/upton-sinclair](http://www.biography.com/writer/upton-sinclair). Accessed 6 Dec. 2019.

This article is a biography of Upton Sinclair's life and goes into depth about his life. It allowed for a better understanding of his background to how he became the influential figure he is recognized to be today. It also explains his activity after he wrote his infamous novel.

Biography.com Editors. Upton Sinclair (1878-1968). Photograph. *A&E Television Networks*, 21 Nov. 2019, [www.biography.com/writer/upton-sinclair](http://www.biography.com/writer/upton-sinclair). Accessed 18 Dec. 2019.

This photograph is a portrait of Upton Sinclair in 1904. This was chosen to be included in the final exhibit because it provides viewers with a visual of who he was in the time period in which the topic takes place.

Case, Kit. "Chemical exposure government, workers' compensation, workplace injury, workplace safety." Photograph. *Washington Workers' Advisor*, Causey Wright Industrial Strength Law, 30 Jan. 2017, [workersadvisor.com/2017/01/30/chemical-exposure-in-chicken-plants/](http://workersadvisor.com/2017/01/30/chemical-exposure-in-chicken-plants/). Accessed 22 Dec. 2019.

This photograph, taken by Kit Case, shows workers at a modern day poultry processing plant. This image is meant to represent the improved working conditions of today alongside an explanation of its significant connection to Sinclair's novel.

Clynch, David. Factory workers on a production line package the meat products for the market. Photograph. *Alamy*, 29 May 2013, [www.alamy.com/stock-photo-factory-workers-on-a-production-line-package-the-meat-products-for-100069195.html](http://www.alamy.com/stock-photo-factory-workers-on-a-production-line-package-the-meat-products-for-100069195.html). Accessed 22 Dec. 2019.

This photograph, taken in 2013, shows workers packing in a modern meat processing plant. Partnered with another similar image from 1906, this photo is meant to show viewers the improved conditions of packing plants from the Meat Inspection Act that resulted from Sinclair's *The Jungle*.

Coodley, Lauren. "Upton Sinclair." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 21 Nov. 2019, [www.britannica.com/biography/Upton-Sinclair](http://www.britannica.com/biography/Upton-Sinclair).

This source is an article that mainly focuses on the impacts of Upton Sinclair's novel. By thoroughly discussing how *The Jungle* influenced the rise of socialist views, it provided a better understanding of the impact it had on the public. This article also addressed other novels that Sinclair wrote, hoping to shed light on more social issues such as the mining industry.

Costly, Andrew. "Upton Sinclair's The Jungle: Muckraking the Meat-Packing Industry."

*Constitutional Rights Foundation*, 2008,

[www.crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/bria-24-1-b-upton-sinclairs-the-jungle-muckraking-the-meat-packing-industry.html](http://www.crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/bria-24-1-b-upton-sinclairs-the-jungle-muckraking-the-meat-packing-industry.html).

This article discusses the history and importance of Upton Sinclair's novel, *The Jungle*. His early life and the history of the key aim, Packingtown, was described in-depth, along with the public reaction to his novel. Subsequently, it explains the significance and importance of the novel, as it led to new laws that protect the health of the population today.

Deeley, Alexander. I worked night shifts at a meat packing factory, and it was hell. Photograph. *The Tab*, 2015,

[thetab.com/2016/06/06/i-worked-night-shifts-at-a-meat-packing-factory-and-it-was-hell-92440](http://thetab.com/2016/06/06/i-worked-night-shifts-at-a-meat-packing-factory-and-it-was-hell-92440). Accessed 22 Dec. 2019.

This photograph, taken in 2015, shows the separation process within a modern meat processing plant. Along with another corresponding image from 1906, this photo is meant to compare the conditions within the modern plant to the early 1900s plant. This provides the viewer with a better understanding of Sinclair's impacts on modern working conditions and health within the plant.

Framework Studios. Premier Foods Group. Photograph. *Premier Foods Group*, 2015,

[www.premierfoodsgroup.com/the-difference](http://www.premierfoodsgroup.com/the-difference). Accessed 22 Dec. 2019.

Taken in 2015, this photo shows an aisle of meat at a modern day grocery store. The image is used to represent modern day health because of its clean organized look. It allows the viewer to have a visual of consumer health in the modern day meat industry.

L.W. Currey, Inc. "The Jungle, Upton Sinclair." Photograph. *L.W. Currey, Inc*, 1906,  
[www.lwcurrey.com/pages/books/162464/upton-sinclair/the-jungle](http://www.lwcurrey.com/pages/books/162464/upton-sinclair/the-jungle). Accessed 22 Dec. 2019.

This image shows the original 1906 cover to *The Jungle*. This photo allows the viewer to have a visual of what the original first edition cover to the novel looked like.

Olsson, Karen. "Upton Sinclair's The Jungle." *Slate Magazine*, 6 July 2006,  
[slate.com/culture/2006/07/upton-sinclair-s-the-jungle.html](http://slate.com/culture/2006/07/upton-sinclair-s-the-jungle.html). Accessed 22 Dec. 2019.

This online article provides an overview of the impact that Sinclair's novel had on the industry, as well as other ethical advancements that it influenced. This source also provided more information and analysis on his original intent *The Jungle*.

PenguinRandomHouse Editors. "The Jungle by Upton Sinclair." *PenguinRandomHouse*,  
[www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/167863/the-jungle-by-upton-sinclair/9780812976236/teachers-guide/](http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/167863/the-jungle-by-upton-sinclair/9780812976236/teachers-guide/). Accessed 15 Dec. 2019.

This source is mainly used as a teaching guide for educators, but provided a helpful perspective on Sinclair's novel. A key section of the text explained the public perception of his novel versus the message Sinclair had hoped to send. These quotes were used in an intent versus perception comparison within the exhibit.



Roberts, Ivy. Self-Service Meats: Supermarket circa. Photograph. *Study.com*, 1950,  
[study.com/academy/lesson/issues-in-the-19th-century-meat-packing-industry.html](https://www.study.com/academy/lesson/issues-in-the-19th-century-meat-packing-industry.html).

Accessed 18 Dec. 2019.

This photograph, taken in 1950, shows a woman shopping for meat in a local supermarket. The image is meant to show viewers a visual of the finished packing of meat in an average grocery store in the 1900s.

Slotnik, Daniel E. "Upton Sinclair, Whose Muckraking Changed the Meat Industry." *The New York Times*, 30 June 2016,

[www.nytimes.com/interactive/projects/cp/obituaries/archives/upton-sinclair-meat-industry](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/projects/cp/obituaries/archives/upton-sinclair-meat-industry).

This article addresses the huge impact that *The Jungle* posed to the agricultural industry in 1906. It discusses Theodore Roosevelt's part in the appeal to the Meat Inspection Act in response to his powerful novel, as well as public opinion. Along with this, it also explains Sinclair's original intent with responses to questions asked by press.

Study.com Editors. "Why Was The Jungle Important During the Progressive Era?" *Study.com*,

Accredited Business,

[study.com/academy/lesson/why-was-the-jungle-important-during-the-progressive-era.html](https://www.study.com/academy/lesson/why-was-the-jungle-important-during-the-progressive-era.html). Accessed 10 Dec. 2019.

This student resource explains Sinclair's role in socialism and progressivism and how *The Jungle* influenced action and movement in the goals of the parties. The text thoroughly explained the goals of both parties and the actions that Sinclair had done, proving to be helpful in the analysis of his impacts.

Vorotnikov, Vladislav. Meat production in Russia has seen an increase, while imports have dropped. Photograph. *Global Meat*, William Reed, 26 May 2016, [www.globalmeatnews.com/Article/2016/05/27/Russia-s-meat-industry-worried-by-oversupply](http://www.globalmeatnews.com/Article/2016/05/27/Russia-s-meat-industry-worried-by-oversupply). Accessed 22 Dec. 2019.

This image, taken in 2016, shows pigs in containment in a modern meat processing industry. This photo accompanies a similar photo taken in 1894, meant to show the contrast and improvement of health in the industry, resulting from the impact of Sinclair's novel and its legislation.

---. The 26th President of the United States (1901-09) sitting at his desk working. Photograph.

*Hulton Archive*, 1905,

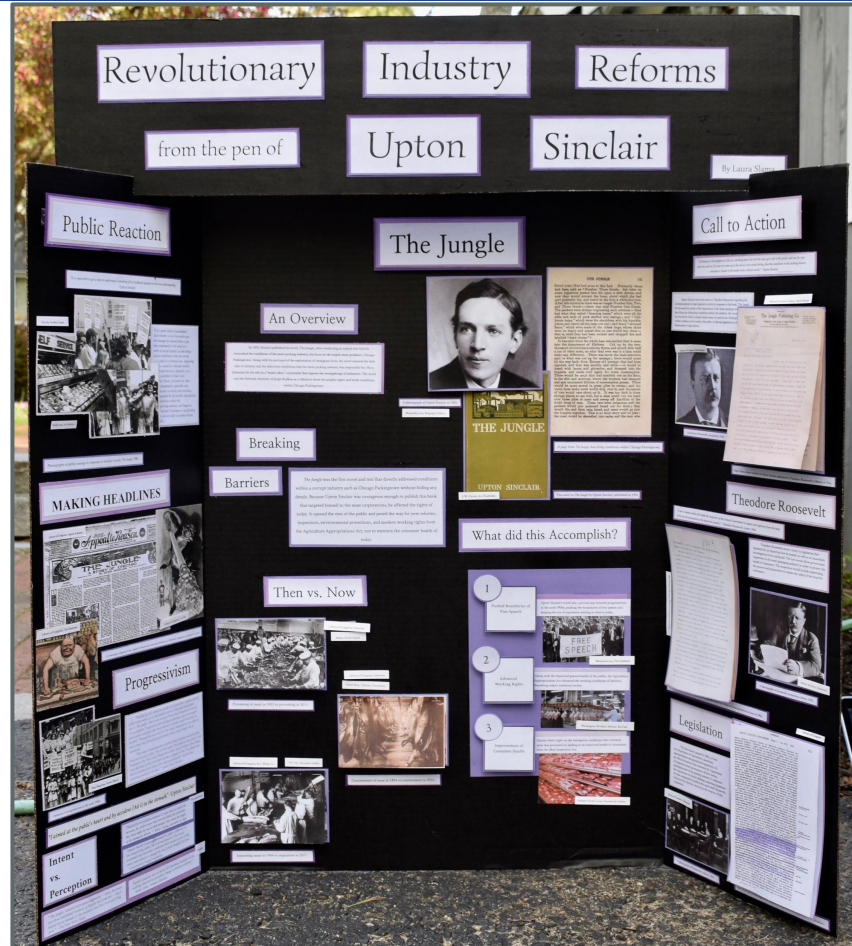
[www.gettyimages.com/detail/news-photo/theodore-roosevelt-the-26th-president-of-the-united-states-news-photo/3281432](http://www.gettyimages.com/detail/news-photo/theodore-roosevelt-the-26th-president-of-the-united-states-news-photo/3281432). Accessed 18 Dec. 2019.

This portrait of Theodore Roosevelt, taken in 1905, shows him composing a letter at his desk. This photo is important because it provides the viewer with an accurate visual of Roosevelt at the time period in which the letters between him and Sinclair were exchanged, allowing a better overall understanding of the topic.

# Exhibit Entry Information

<b>Title:</b>	Revolutionary Reforms from the Pen of Upton Sinclair
<b>Name(s):</b>	Laura Slama
<b>Division:</b> (Junior/Senior)	Senior
<b>Individual/ Group:</b>	Individual
<b>Number of Student Composed Words on Exhibit:</b>	494
<b>(Optional) Link to Any Audio or Video on Exhibit (no more than 3 minutes total):</b>	None

# Picture of Entire Exhibit



# Thesis/Historical Argument

One of the first exposés that directly addressed the wrongs of a large corporation, Upton Sinclair's novel, *The Jungle*, paved the way for legislative change in the meat production industry, affecting the modern health and labor laws of today.





# Picture & Text on Left Panel of Exhibit 1 of 3

## Public Reaction

*"It is impossible to get a man to understand something if his livelihood depends on him not understanding."*  
- Upton Sinclair

*"It is a great work of journalism. And whether or not his readers got the message he wanted them to get, they understood it the novel as a work of social realism: as describing actual conditions in the real world, not simply in a fictional one. Appearing first as a serial in a Socialist weekly, The Jungle became a bestseller once it was published in book form."*  
- Karen Olsson, journalist for Slate.  
Many newspapers, especially ones that focused on society and socialism, were appalled by the horrific descriptions and conditions within the meat-packing industry, and began to follow Sinclair's footsteps in muckraking of their own in order to further inform the public.



## Public Reaction

*"It is impossible to get a man to understand something if his livelihood depends on him not understanding."* - Upton Sinclair

lcp.org, Gorden Coster. (citation)

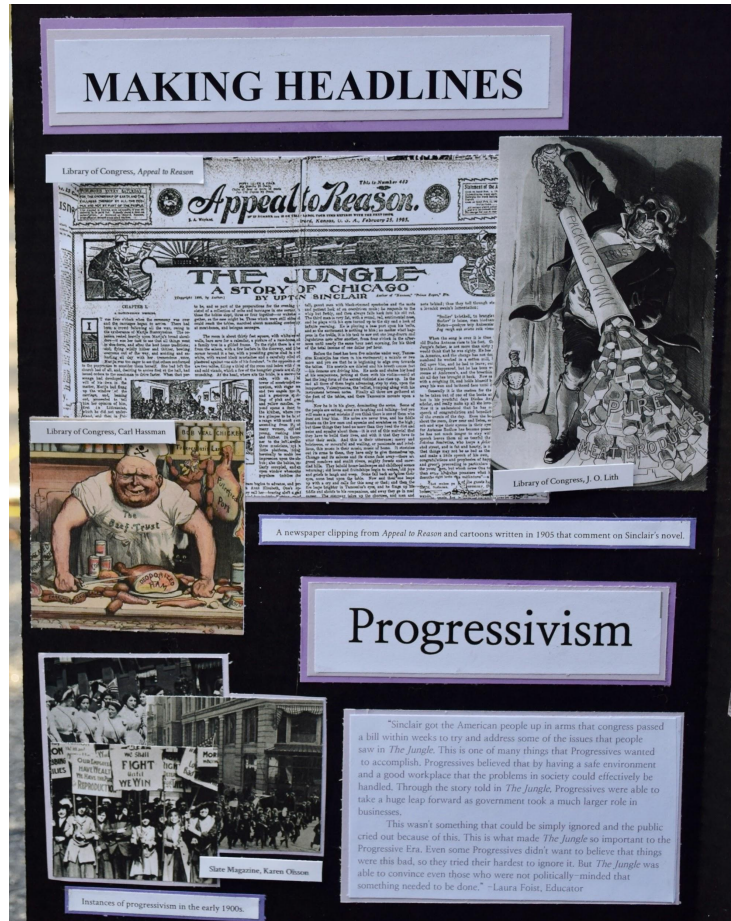
Study.com, Ivy Roberts. (citation)

*"It is a great work of journalism. And whether or not his readers got the message he wanted them to get, they understood it the novel as a work of social realism: as describing actual conditions in the real world, not simply in a fictional one. Appearing first as a serial in a Socialist weekly, The Jungle became a bestseller once it was published in book form."* - Karen Olsson, journalist for Slate.

Many newspapers, especially ones that focused on society and socialism, were appalled by the horrific descriptions and conditions within the meat-packing industry, and began to follow Sinclair's footsteps in muckraking of their own in order to further inform the public.

Photographs of public outrage in response to Sinclair's novel, *The Jungle*, 1906.

# Picture & Text on Left Panel of Exhibit 2 of 3



## Making Headlines

Library of Congress, *Appeal to Reason*. (citation)

Library of Congress, J.O. Lith. (citation)

Library of Congress, Carl Hassman. (citation)

A newspaper clipping from *Appeal to Reason* and cartoons written in 1905 that comment on Sinclair's novel.

## Progressivism

Slate Magazine, Karen Olsson. (citation)

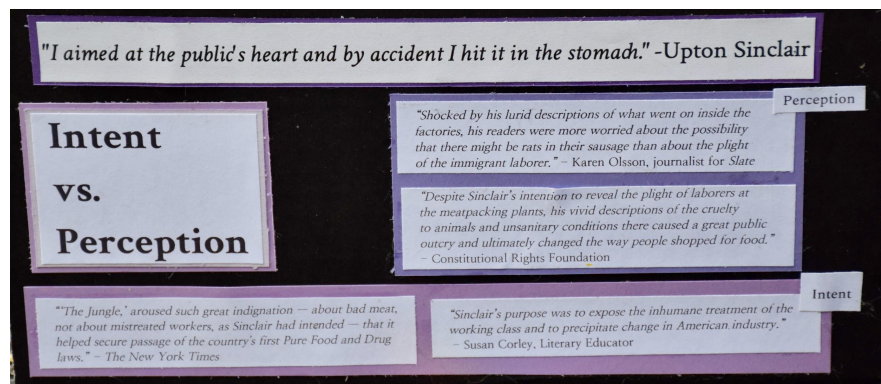
Instances of progressivism in the early 1900s.

"Sinclair got the American people up in arms that congress passed a bill within weeks to try and address some of the issues that people saw in *The Jungle*. This is one of many things that Progressives wanted to accomplish. Progressives believed that by having a safe environment and a good workplace that the problems in society could effectively be handled. Through the story told in *The Jungle*, Progressives were able to take a huge leap forward as government took a much larger role in businesses.

This wasn't something that could be simply ignored and the public cried out because of this. This is what made *The Jungle* so important to the Progressive Era. Even some Progressives didn't want to believe that things were this bad, so they tried their hardest to ignore it. But *The Jungle* was able to convince even those who were not politically-minded that something needed to be done." -Laura Foist, Educator.



# Picture & Text on Left Panel of Exhibit 3 of 3



## Intent vs. Perception

*"I aimed at the public's heart and by accident I hit it in the stomach." - Upton Sinclair*

### Intent

*"Sinclair's purpose was to expose the inhumane treatment of the working class and to precipitate change in American industry." - Susan Corley, Literary Educator.*

*"The Jungle,' aroused such great indignation — about bad meat, not about mistreated workers, as Sinclair had intended — that it helped secure passage of the country's first Pure Food and Drug laws." - The New York Times.*

### Perception

*"Shocked by his lurid descriptions of what went on inside the factories, his readers were more worried about the possibility that there might be rats in their sausage than about the plight of the immigrant laborer." - Karen Olsson, journalist for Slate.*


*"Despite Sinclair's intention to reveal the plight of laborers at the meatpacking plants, his vivid descriptions of the cruelty to animals and unsanitary conditions there caused a great public outcry and ultimately changed the way people shopped for food." - Constitutional Rights Foundation.*

# Picture of Center Panel of Exhibit

## The Jungle

### An Overview

In 1906, Sinclair published his novel, *The Jungle*, when conducting an exposé that directly revealed the conditions often most troubling to workers in the largest meat-packing industry, Chicago's Packinghouses. Along with his portrayal of the exploitation of immigrant Irish, the novel exposed the health risks of workers and the deplorable conditions that the meat-packing industry was responsible for. The information for *The Jungle* was "based on facts," *Exposés* that exposed the workings of industries. The novel won the National Association of Chicago Publishers an exhibit to draw the public's eyes and focus conditions within Chicago's Packinghouses.




Upton Sinclair


### Breaking Barriers

The *Jungle* was the first novel and text that directly addressed conditions within a corrupt industry such as Chicago's Packinghouses without hiding any details. Because Upton Sinclair was courageous enough to publish this book that targeted himself to the meat corporations, he affected the rights of today. It opened the eyes of the public and paved the way for new reforms, inspections, environmental protections, and workers' working rights from the Agriculture Appropriations Act, not to mention the consumer health of today.


### Then vs. Now



Photograph of workers in a meatpacking plant



Photograph of workers in a meatpacking plant



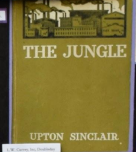
Photograph of workers in a meatpacking plant

### What did this Accomplish?


1. Exposed the conditions of the meatpacking industry

2. Advanced Working Rights

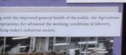
3. Improvement of Consumer Health



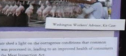
THE JUNGLE  
UPTON SINCLAIR




Photograph of a meatpacking plant



Photograph of a meatpacking plant



Photograph of a meatpacking plant



Photograph of a meatpacking plant

# Picture & Text on Center Panel 1 of 3


## The Jungle

### An Overview

In 1905, Sinclair published his novel, *The Jungle*, after conducting an exposé that heavily researched the conditions of the meat-packing industry, his focus on the largest meat producer, Chicago Packingtown. Along with his portrayal of the exploitation of immigrant lives, the novel exposed the dark side of industry and the abhorrent conditions that the meat-packing industry was responsible for. He is infamous for his title as a “muckraker,” a journalist that exposes the wrongdoings of industries. The novel uses the fictional character of Jurgis Rudkus as a vehicle to show the graphic sights and harsh conditions within Chicago Packingtown.

### Breaking Barriers

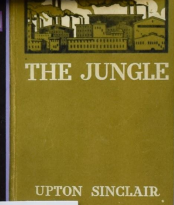
*The Jungle* was the first novel and text that directly addressed conditions within a corrupt industry such as Chicago Packingtown without hiding any details. Because Upton Sinclair was courageous enough to publish this book that targeted himself to the meat corporations, he affected the rights of today. It opened the eyes of the public and paved the way for new reforms, inspections, environmental protections, and modern working rights from the Agriculture Appropriations Act, not to mention the consumer health of today.



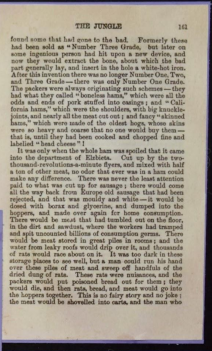
A photograph of Upton Sinclair in 1905.

Biography.com, Biography Editors. (citation)

L.W. Curry, Inc, Doubleday. (citation)



The cover of *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair, published in 1905.



A page from *The Jungle*, describing conditions within Chicago Packingtown.

3D →



## The Jungle

A photograph of Upton Sinclair in 1905.

A page from *The Jungle*, describing conditions within Chicago Packingtown.

The cover to *The Jungle*, published in 1905.

Biography.com, Biography Editors. (citation)

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In 1905, Sinclair published his novel, *The Jungle*, after conducting an exposé that heavily researched the conditions of the meat-packing industry, his focus on the largest meat-producer, Chicago Packingtown. Along with his portrayal of the exploitation of immigrant lives, the novel exposed the dark side of industry and the abhorrent conditions that the meat-packing industry was responsible for. He is infamous for his title as a “muckraker,” a journalist that exposes the wrongdoings of industries. The novel uses the fictional character of Jurgis Rudkus as a vehicle to show the graphic sights and harsh conditions within Chicago Packingtown.

## Breaking Barriers

*The Jungle* was the first novel and text that directly addressed conditions within a corrupt industry such as Chicago Packingtown without hiding any details. Because Upton Sinclair was courageous enough to publish this book that targeted himself to the meat corporations, he affected the rights of today. It opened the eyes of the public and paved the way for new reforms, inspections, environmental protections, and modern working rights from the Agriculture Appropriations Act, not to mention the consumer health of today.

# Picture & Text on Center Panel 2 of 3

## Then vs. Now



Library of Congress, Unknown.

Alamy, David Clynch.

Library of Congress, Unknown.

Global Meat, Vladislav Vorotnikov.

Processing of meat in 1905 vs processing in 2013.



Containment of meat in 1894 vs containment in 2016.



Separating meat in 1904 vs separation in 2017.

Library of Congress, H.C. White Co.

The Tab, Alexander Deeley.

## Now



Library of Congress, Unknown.

Alamy, David Clynch.

Processing of meat in 1905 vs processing in 2013.



Separating meat in 1904 vs separation in 2017.



Containment of meat in 1894 vs containment in 2016.

## Then vs. Now

Library of Congress, Unknown. (citation)

Alamy, David Clynch. (citation)

Processing of meat in 1905 vs. processing in 2013.

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Containment of meat in 1894 vs. containment in 2016.

Library of Congress, H.C. White Co. (citation)

The Tab, Alexander Deeley. (citation)

Separating meat in 1904 vs. separating in 2017.



# Picture & Text on Center Panel 3 of 3

## What did this Accomplish?

1

Pushed Boundaries of Free Speech

Upton Sinclair's novel was a pivotal step towards progressivism in the early 1900s, pushing the boundaries of free speech and shaping the era of expository writing to what is today.



Museumca.org, Chris Kjobech

2

Advanced Working Rights

Along with the improved general health of the public, the Agriculture Appropriations Act advanced the working conditions of laborers, benefiting today's industrial society.



Washington Workers' Advisor, Kit Case

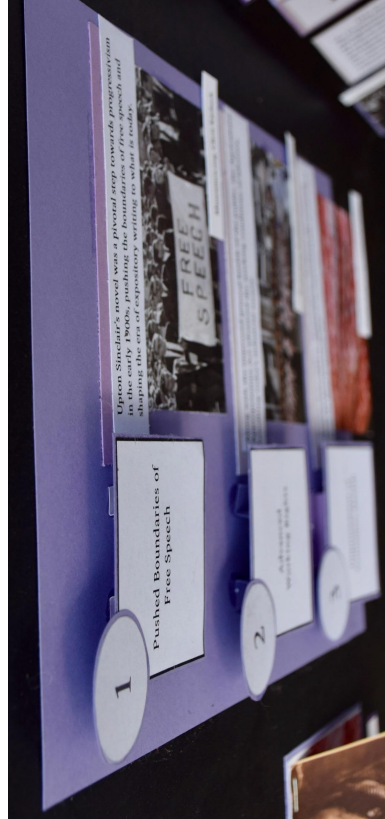
3

Improvement of Consumer Health

Sinclair shed a light on the outrageous conditions that common meat was processed in, leading to an improved health of consumers from the Meat Inspection Act.



Premier Foods Group, Framework Studios



## What did this Accomplish

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Museumca.org, Chris Kjobech. (citation)

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Along with the improved general health of the public, the Agriculture Appropriations Act advanced the working conditions of laborers, benefiting today's industrial society.

Washington Workers' Advisor, Kit Case. (citation)

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Premier Foods Group, Framework Studios. (citation)


# Picture of Right Panel of Exhibit

## Call to Action

"Let him go to Park together all I did, at a word long man, for with the men, get at job in the yards, and see the eyes and every and say the does not come out at the end of a few weeks feeling, that the conditions in the parking houses constitute a menace to the health of the civilized world." - Upson Sinclair

Upson Sinclair wrote this letter to Theodore Roosevelt regarding his recommendation to take legislative action in response to his book, *The Jungle*. In the letter, Sinclair describes the unsanitary conditions within the meat-packing industry, stating that Roosevelt finds a treated insider source to send to the Parkingtons and further evidence of its cruelty, then after, to discuss legislation in the Department of Agriculture.

Library of Congress, Pack Business



A portrait of Upson Sinclair, a man with a mustache, wearing a suit and tie.


A portrait of Roosevelt, composed in 1902.

## Theodore Roosevelt

Paper from a letter written by Upson Sinclair addressed to Theodore Roosevelt in March of 1906.

Theodore Roosevelt wrote a letter to Upson Sinclair in response to his letter regarding the meat-packing industry. The letter was written in March of 1906 and is addressed to Upson Sinclair. The letter discusses the conditions in the meat-packing industry and the need for legislation to improve the health of the nation.

Library of Congress, Upson Sinclair




A photograph of Theodore Roosevelt sitting at a desk, writing a letter. He is wearing a suit and tie.

A photograph of Roosevelt composing a letter, 1903.

## Legislation

This document, passed in 1906, is from the Department of Agriculture. It is an official document that contains the text of the Meat Inspection Act of 1906. The document is a historical record of the legislation that was passed to improve the health of the nation by regulating the meat-packing industry.

Library of Congress, Upson Sinclair



A photograph of Theodore Roosevelt's signature on the Meat Inspection Act of 1906. The signature is written in ink on a piece of paper.

A photograph of Roosevelt's signature on the Meat Inspection Act of 1906.

# Picture & Text on Right Panel 1 of 3

## Call to Action

"Let him go to Packingtown as I did, as a working-man; live with the men, get a job in the yards, and use his eyes and ears; and see if he does not come out at the end of a few weeks feeling...that the conditions in the packing-houses constitute a 'menace to the health of the civilized world.'" - Upton Sinclair

Upton Sinclair wrote this letter to Theodore Roosevelt regarding his recommendation to take legislative action in response to his book, *The Jungle*. He discussed his points of the importance of the meat-packing conflict, describing the disturbing conditions within the industry. He recommended that Roosevelt find a trusted inside source to send to the Packingtown as further evidence of its cruelty, then after, to discuss legislation in the Department of Agriculture.

National Archives Catalog, Upton Sinclair

### The Jungle Publishing Co.

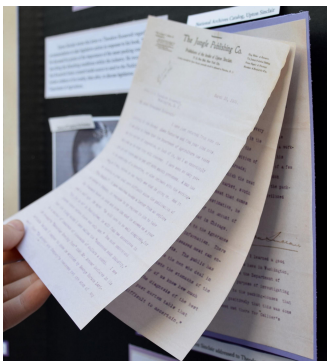
Publishers of the books of Upton Sinclair.  
110 N. 1st St., New York City.  
(Latter printed by Upton Sinclair personally at 100 N. 1st St., N.Y.)

March 15, 1906.

My dear President Roosevelt:

I have just returned from a tour of duty in the Jersey. (Name redacted) and find your kind note. I am glad to learn that the Department of Agriculture has taken up the matter of inspection, or lack of it, but I am exceedingly anxious to see what time will require. I have seen as many people go out there and be put off with words and promises. A man can be anything of a detective, or else intimate with the working men as I was, before he can really see what is going on. And it is becoming a great deal more difficult since the publication of "The Jungle." I have received a letter from an employee of Armour's factory, in response to my request to him to take the Chairman have to look and give him what he asked for a year and a half ago. He says: "He will have to be well acquainted, the 'big dog' is not in Packingtown, he will find the detective in place where there was only one." The most interesting thing which I have called the "Inspected meat industry," is a matter of hundreds of thousands of dollars a month. I see in response "Saturday Evening Post" that Mr. Armour declares in the article (which I happen to know is written by George Horace Derby) that "His Armour and Company's business is not one of 'big'...

Pages from a letter written by Upton Sinclair addressed to Theodore Roosevelt in March of 1906.



## Call to Action

*"...let him go to Packingtown as I did, as a working-man; live with the men, get a job in the yards, and use his eyes and ears; and see if he does not come out at the end of a few weeks feeling...that the conditions in the packing-houses constitute a 'menace to the health of the civilized world.'" - Upton Sinclair, The Jungle*

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National Archives Catalog, Upton Sinclair. (citation)

Library of Congress, Pach Brothers. (citation)

A portrait of Theodore Roosevelt, composed in 1902.

Pages from a letter written by Upton Sinclair addressed to Theodore Roosevelt in March of 1906.

[Link to document here](#)



# Picture & Text on Right Panel 2 of 3

## Theodore Roosevelt

"A law is needed which will enable the inspectors of the General Government to inspect and supervise from the hoof to the can the preparation of the meat food product." - Theodore Roosevelt, Letter 1906

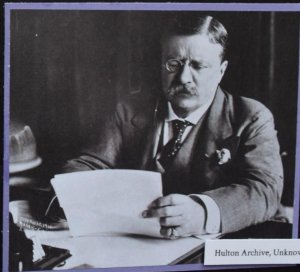
feel compelled to order that inspection labels and certificates on  
meat products shall not be used hereafter.

The report shows that the meat trade and packing houses are  
not kept very reasonably clean, and that the method of packing and  
preparing meat products is unsanitary and dangerous to health. Under  
existing law the National Government has no power to enforce inspec-  
tion of the meat food products and that products that are  
badly spoiled from the packing houses into interstate commerce. -  
ing to no inspection appropriation the Department of Agriculture is not  
able to place inspectors in all establishments desiring them.  
The present law prohibits the shipment of undeposited meat to foreign  
countries, but there is no provision forbidding the shipment of unde-  
posited meat to interstate commerce, and thus the sources of interstate  
commerce are left open to traffic in diseased or spoiled meat. If law  
has been allowed on scientific food authority further while exist, such as  
the danger use of chemicals and drugs, the Government lacks power to  
remedy them. A law is needed which will enable the inspectors of the  
General Government to inspect and supervise from the hoof to the can the  
preparation of the meat food product. The will seem to be such law  
in the matter of present inspection time in the value of meat and other  
meat products, and keep such law to require products sent abroad that  
no measure taken used at home.

In or between the expense of the inspection should be paid by a fee  
levied on each animal slaughtered. If this is not done, the whole purpose  
of the law can at any time be defeated through an insufficient appropriation,  
and whenever there was no particular public interest in the subject  
it would be not only very but national time to make the appropriation in-  
sufficient. If it were not for this consideration I should favor the  
Government paying for the inspection.

The alien expressed in certain quarters concerning this feature  
which he believed to be a realization of the fact that in the near, under  
1906 a law, will the rest of inspection would be made per head.

Theodore Roosevelt wrote a letter to legislation that  
appealed for an important law be passed, as well as an immediate  
investigation to be conducted. The law would allow government  
inspection in the meat-packing industry in order to protect the  
health of consumers. The inspection would include supervising  
the process and preparation to ensure the safety of the meat for  
consumers.



Hulton Archive, Unknown.

A photograph of Roosevelt composing a letter, 1903.

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National Archives Catalog, Theodore Roosevelt. (citation)

Hulton Archive, Unknown. (citation)

A photo of Roosevelt composing a letter, 1903.

A page from a letter written by Theodore Roosevelt to the U.S House of Representatives in June of 1906.

[Link to document here](#)



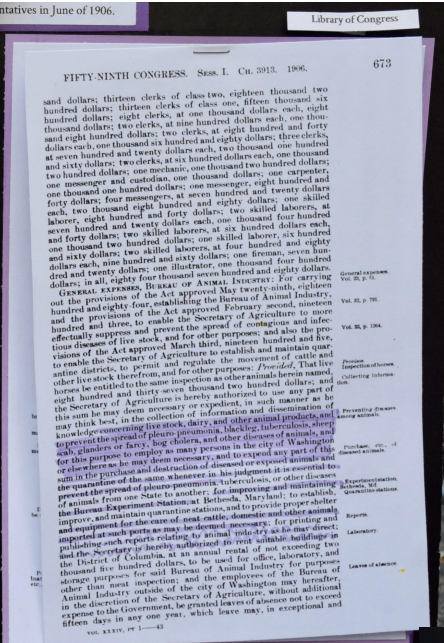
A page from a letter written by Theodore Roosevelt to the U.S. House of Representatives in June of 1906.

This document, passed in 1906, is from the Department of Agriculture, specifying appropriations and agricultural regulations. It's an official document that institutes the requirement of inspection from government officials before packaging meat in the packing industry. It addresses the importance of correct labeling, requiring inspection for that component as well as the meat itself. Roosevelt, influenced by Sinclair, was key in the creation of this legislation.

Library of Congress, Unknown



A photograph of Roosevelt's cabinet, 1909



Pages from the official legislation, passed in 1906, from the Department of Agriculture

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Library of Congress. (citation)

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A photograph of Roosevelt's cabinet, 1909.

[Link to document here](#)

