

Jessica Filippelli
40046560
CART 360 Proposal

Four Research Questions

Think of a context and an environment where you would like to intervene. Where will you present your project? Who is it made for?

The environment that I would like to intervene is a user versus their emotions and feelings and for them to try to help better themselves through a digital interaction. It is basically a user helping themselves with the help of this object.

The environment that I plan on making is more of a private space than a public space. The space that I'm envisioning is a safe space just for you. In reality, it is up to the user if they want to share the object or not. The environment that will be presented is called (at the moment), "interactive motivation message board". My work will be presented on 8.5 inches by 11 inches (that might change) board, with the help of LED lights to showcase the messages. The board will be placed in a wood frame cover in a fabric, I'm hoping the fabric will be velvet. Under the velvet will be a squishy foam material, that when people hold the board it will be soft to the touch and like a pillow. I envision my board being placed on people's work desk, so they can see it and touch it and feel motivated. I feel like a work desk is the place where most people spend a lot of their time, so they have a better chance of seeing it. This board will show a user daily motivational saying based on how a user is feeling, all you have to do is hold the board and it will read you and show you a message on the board.

My board is for anyone who wants to feel motivated. I feel like this board will be good for someone in college, university because I am basing it on myself and my friends. I asked people if they would want one and when in their lives they would want one. Most of the people said and me included said they would want one during college and university. College and university give out a different kind of stress compared to high school. But everyone is different. It can work for men and women, work, school or family stress.

Think about the kind of relationship you wish to foster between your users and the artifact or installation. How can you use your project to destabilize the users and make them reflect on themselves, their environment and society?

The relationship I want the users to have with my project is a sense of motivation and a feeling that they have power over themselves and that they can do whatever they set their mind to. I want users to feel somewhat better when they read the messages on the board after touching or holding it. If there are people who are feeling stress, and if they are near the board than and if they think the board is inviting enough by the look of how soft is they will end up touching it and then the board will say something that is motivating based on how they are feeling. By the board being soft to the touch, people might want to also hug the board when they are stress, hugging something soft when stressed always seems to help and to go with the soft touch, a user will get a message. The board will know how you feel and it will help the user by a message. I want the board to be able to feel your stress and then give out a saying of motivation.

How I can use my project to make the users reflect on themselves is when they see the positive sayings on the board, they can take a moment and just think about what they are doing and take a breath and relax and then they can go on with what they were doing feeling better than before.

I want the users to feel like by reading the sayings on the board it will help them change their attitude from a negative one to a positive one. Because it is always good for the soul to read positive things, especially when a user does not feel good mentally. This project can be good for those who want a little extra motivation and who do not want to ask for it. That they can get the positivity themselves by having the board know what they are feeling. Getting motivation by humans might not be helpful, because they might not know how to read you, but this board will.

Think about the notion of empowerment. Is your artefact really helping or challenging its users in any way or is it just another psychological prosthesis?

In terms of empowerment, I hope my artefact can both help and challenge users. Firstly, in regards to helping the users, I am hoping when users see the messages on the board it will help their mood and put them in a better mental state of mind. That is the whole point of this board, to help users through motivational messages and a user gets these messages by touching or holding/hugging the board and it will send a user a message.

When it comes to challenging people, if the sayings on the board is saying something along the lines of “you can do it”, then maybe the user will think that they can do anything, then that will challenge the user to do the thing that they might be scared of doing. It is the sense of constantly seeing the same or different messages based on how you are feeling because the board will know how you feel. It is like the board will know you better than you know yourself and the board will know you better than other people know you too. If you can see a random message on the street or on social media, it will not feel the same way because it is not coming from your feelings. The message from the board really come from you.

If a user is in a stressful mood and they see the saying, it might make a user feel anything is possible in that moment. I do think it can be a psychological prosthesis for some people, for example, maybe people will say that need the board to feel better and some might disagree by saying you do not need any outside help to be motivated. That it should come within yourself the motivation. But some people might need to constantly read motivational things, and that they cannot find it in themselves. So, this is where the board comes into play.

Think about something meaningful. What are you trying to tell us with your project?

What I think is meaningful is humans trying to better themselves or humans trying to help other humans better themselves. We do not need to be tearing each other down, there is already enough hate in the world and we can all use some positivity and this project will hopefully give out that positivity. I’m hoping in the end my object can encourage people to stay positivity through hard times and to also spread the positivity. A user can give out the positivity by getting the board for themselves or a user can give the positivity to someone else by getting this board for someone who they think they needs it.

What I am trying to tell with my project is that it is okay to ask for help, even from a digital interaction system and not from another person, unless a user wants help from a person, that's totally okay. I am telling people who are too shy to ask for motivation or help, that they can get it themselves.

Android Controlled Notice Board Project

Link to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPHce9vEdsQ>

The first similar project to mine is a message board being controlled by a phone. The project has a display screen which has a message on a board. The message is being written through an Android phone. The creator said this device can be used in schools, work offices or at home. He says anyone can send a message and it will appear on the board for people to see. The example of the message in the video was "Tomorrow is a holiday". So, the creator said the purpose of this object was to make an awareness notion. The object where the message is being displayed is the size of someone's hand. There are four lines of 16 LED lights on the board. It uses a Bluetooth module to connect to the Android phone. At the end of each message being type a user has to put a hashtag to mark the end of the sentence. A user types the message like you would type a text message and you click the send button and the message will appear on the screen. Each message can only be 20 characters long. A user can only send four messages of 20 characters long. You can send a letter "s" to make the message scrollable, the messages will scroll in from the right side of the screen and it will stop at the left side of the screen. A user can also send a letter "c" to clear the message back to the screen that says welcome.

Simple Message Board by: Adam Taylor

Link to Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M67Fbw0GC2M>

The second similar project to mine is a message board as an online interface. It is basically a website where people can write messages. The creator said that the point of this message board is to keep everyone informed without sending too many emails. There are only two users for this website. There is the admin and the regular user. A user does not need a username but only a password to log in. The message board allows for file attachments. There are five buttons in the header; Add, Search, List, Manage and Log Out. To add a message, you click on "add" and a user fills out whatever is being asked. There are also options for some of the fields that need to be filled out. You can also edit a message once it is uploaded. There is also the option to have one message on the screen or multiply message on the screen at a time. There is a manage section, which is just for the admin, users do not have access to it. The manage section is where the admin can add, edit and delete subject topics for the drop-down menu on the form a user fills out for a message. You can also change the passwords if needed. The site also has protection for hackers. You can also use the site with your phone.

Voice controlled wireless Electronic notice board using Android

Link to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLL35vwy97I>

The last project that is similar to mine is a speech controlling message board. The board is made up of six blocks of eight by eight Matrix LED lights. This board is the simplest board out of all the examples. The board is quite bulky, and looks heavy. It might be good for a welcome sign on top of a door frame when you walk into a school or work place. The board can have any length message scroll on to the page from the right side. However, the board can only display eight characters. You will need the Android app to control the message. All a user has to do is click the image of the microphone on the screen and speak into the phone's speaker. The message board can only display one message at the time. The app sends the message to the Bluetooth receiver, then to the microcontroller. There is nothing in the video about changing or editing the text when it appears on the phone screen after a user speaks into the phone. What if the Bluetooth did not catch what the user said? The creator did not say what will happen if that occurs. When he said a message, it came out perfect so he did not need to edit it. But it seems that a user can say anything and they can say the message again if the Bluetooth did not catch it.

Why is my project better than the three similar projects?

My project will be better than the three projects above because my project will have the element of touch. Having the board on a desk, it will make people want to touch it because that just want humans do, we touch everything. Especially if the object looks soft and inviting to touch. When a user touches the board, it will know how you are feeling and send you a message of motivation. The other projects do not have that aspect. It will make it seem like the board will know exactly what a user wants to hear just with touch. With the other boards you might have to write your own self motivational sayings, but my board does the work for you. My project seems like the easier version of all the boards, because what if a user doesn't know how to write a message from the other three? With mine, a message will come up right away all you got to do is hold the object.

Storyboard

