

Full Stack Project

by Kristin Bell and James Fotheringham

Summer 2020

BRAIN ⚡ SPARK!

DEPRESSION
TOOLS

SELF-HARM
TOOLS

ANXIETY
TOOLS

LONELINESS
TOOLS

ABOUT

Setting Up: Divide & Conquer

Kristin mostly worked on the front-end stuff and James mostly worked on the back-end stuff. We utilized Node.js, Express, HTML, CSS, SVG elements for the brain, EJS, Bootstrap and incorporated a Mongo database and API resources which we ultimately uploaded to Heroku. We used Git throughout the process. Kristin has more design skills, and James has more experience with javascript, so it made the most sense to divide up the work like this.

Organized by Pages

Our organization of the website was pretty straightforward. We have “tools” pages for different symptoms/brain paths: Self-Harm, Depression, Anxiety, Loneliness, and then an About page and home starting point.

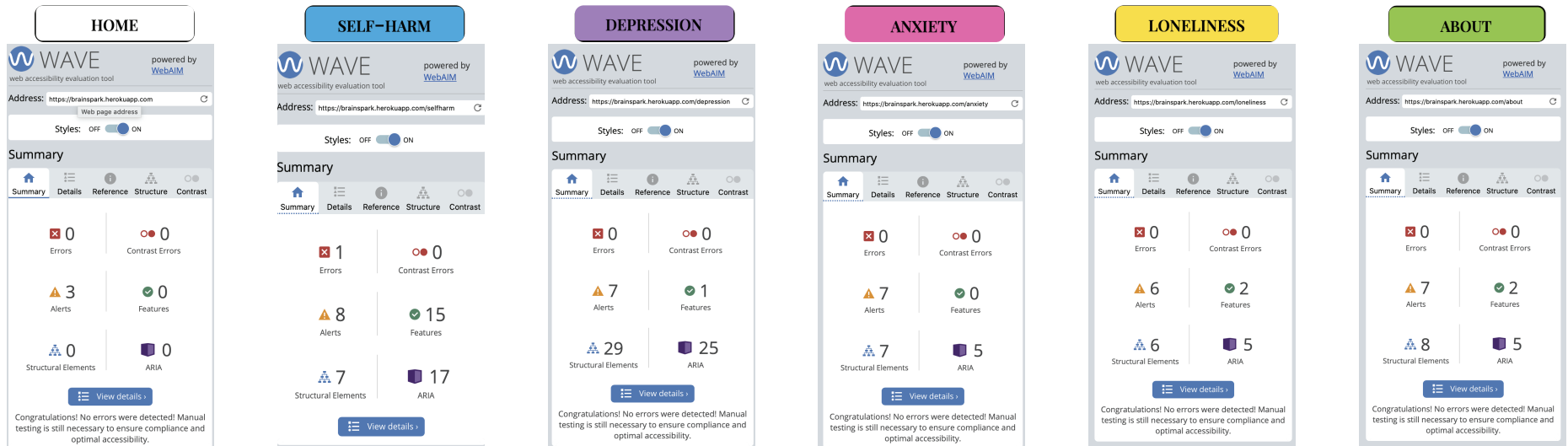
Features of the Project

Each page has its own set of features. Self-Harm provides a map and google search to locate help and we added phone numbers and websites at the top of the page. Depression has relaxation, yoga, and meditation videos along with funny and cute meme feeds. Anxiety has curated Spotify playlists and access to the Spotify player and entry point. The Loneliness page has a mini-discussion board. The About page gives information about the makers.

Other Features

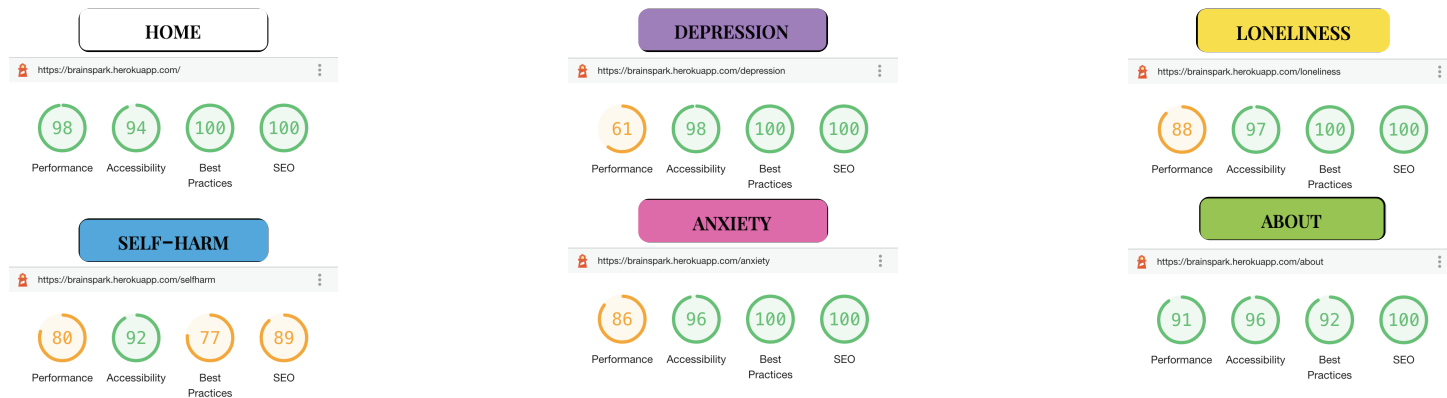
Designed to be mobile friendly with the utilization of the hamburger menu, and content scaled for different screen sizes. Designed to be accessible and adheres to accessibility guidelines including labels for screen readers and contrast that passes accessibility standards.

Current Accessibility Scores:



*Error with Google Maps that we can't control

Current Lighthouse Scores:



Issues We Ran Into:

We ran into many different issues throughout our process, but none that were complete deal breakers. There were really a lot of smaller problems that sometimes took a long time to find the right solution for. I think if we had more experience with development we could get to solutions faster, but you can't get there without going through the process of learning!

How We Solved Issues:

Google and reading documentation and websites really saved us. We also discussed some problems together and figured out how to move on or cut our losses. There was a LOT of trial and error too!

Why We Made This:

We didn't really have an idea for a project. James wanted a bit more experience and time to work on an idea that he has for a project about hiking trails. Kristin had this idea about a brain app that she started in her design class, and we thought we could work it into a website pretty well, so we decided to go with the brain app. Kristin initially had the idea, because she has a mental illness and thinks technology could be utilized more often to help people with mental illness.

Future Work:

James is probably going to put his new skills into working on his hiking app. Kristin might work on Brain Spark some more and release it into the wild. At this point it is kind of a prototype idea, but it has been fun to work on (and sometimes makes us tear out our hair)!

DEMO:

<https://brainspark.herokuapp.com>
