

PUI Final Project Writeup

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Part 1: Project description

This is a digital guestbook intended to make the interaction of giving feedback to a portfolio more interesting and engaging. It is targeted to first-time visitors of my portfolio. Different from the conventional feedback giving mechanism, where users may type their comments in text and have them delivered to the portfolio's owner's email address, I created an interactive book and displayed both the previous and new feedback in it. The book adopted a skeuomorphic design, meaning visitors can flip through the guestbook like how they did in real life, ensuring learnability is in place even if the interaction pattern is different from other platforms.

Other than giving textual comments, visitors can also select one of the stickers that is most relevant to their feedback, ranging from "Good work" all the way to "Unsure". This newly introduced visual element can make the feedback giving experience more fun, and on the other hand make it easier and faster to scan through the previous comments, knowing how the commenter feel about their own feedback.

Part 2: List of user interactions

Flipping through the digital guidebook

- Hover on the edge of the page to flip to the previous/next page

Add comments

- Click on the typearea element to add your comments

Select sticker

- Hover over the sticker set. The sticker will be enlarged upon hovering for clear indication
- Click on the sticker you want to add. There will be a background color change beneath the sticker to show you have selected it

Submit comment

- Press the submit button beneath the sticker set. An alert message will appear to tell you your submission has been successfully shared.
- If you have not filled out the text input or selected a sticker, an alert message will appear and remind you to do them first.

Part 3: External tools

Turn.JS

Turn.JS is a javascript library that creates the page flipping effect. I chose it because of its capabilities to turn divs into 3D-like pages. It also comes with swift animation effects when the book is opened and pages turned.

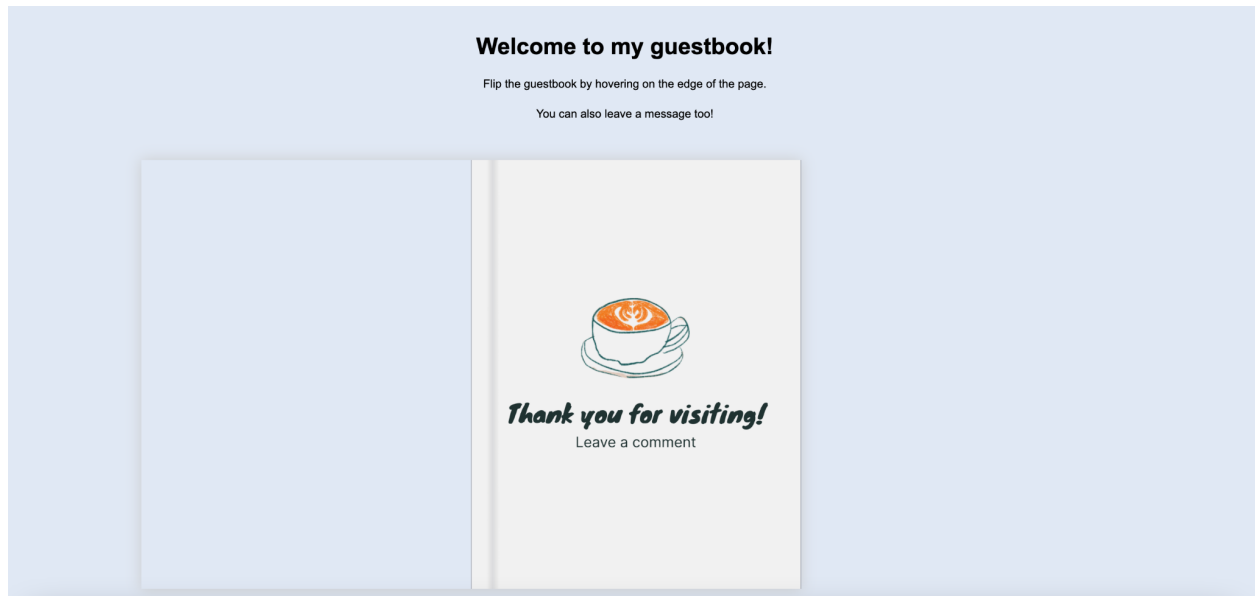
Part 4: Iterations

In my early sketches, users had more flexibility and agency to choose where they want to write, choose fonts and colors. I removed this function out of accessibility concerns – colors selected by users may not have enough color contrast on the page, and allowing users to scribble anywhere on the page may create overlapping content, which hampers readability.

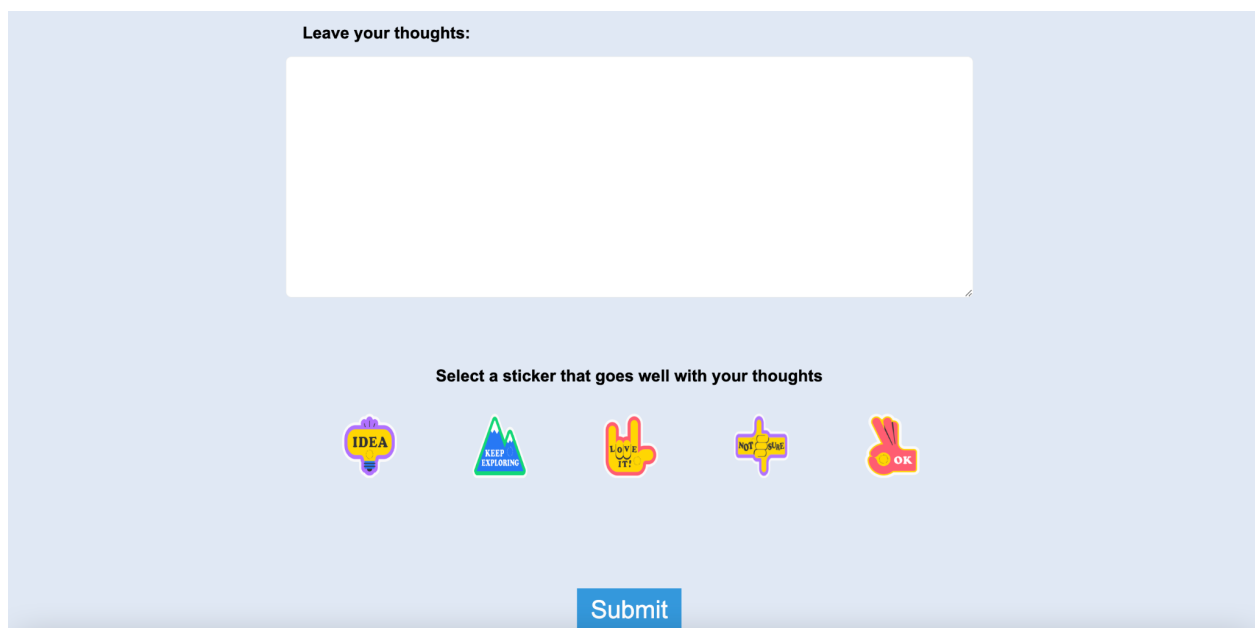
Part 5: Challenges faced

Definitely with using a new Javascript library. Some functions involve animation-related codes and I was not familiar with their parameters. It takes trials and errors to learn about new codes and implement them for my own application.

Appendix



Homepage



User input – text and sticker selection

Leave your thoughts:

Hello. This is for appendix.

Select a sticker that goes well with your thoughts



Submit

User input – text and sticker selection (active)

Welcome to my guestbook!

Flip the guestbook by hovering on the edge of the page.

You can also leave a message too!

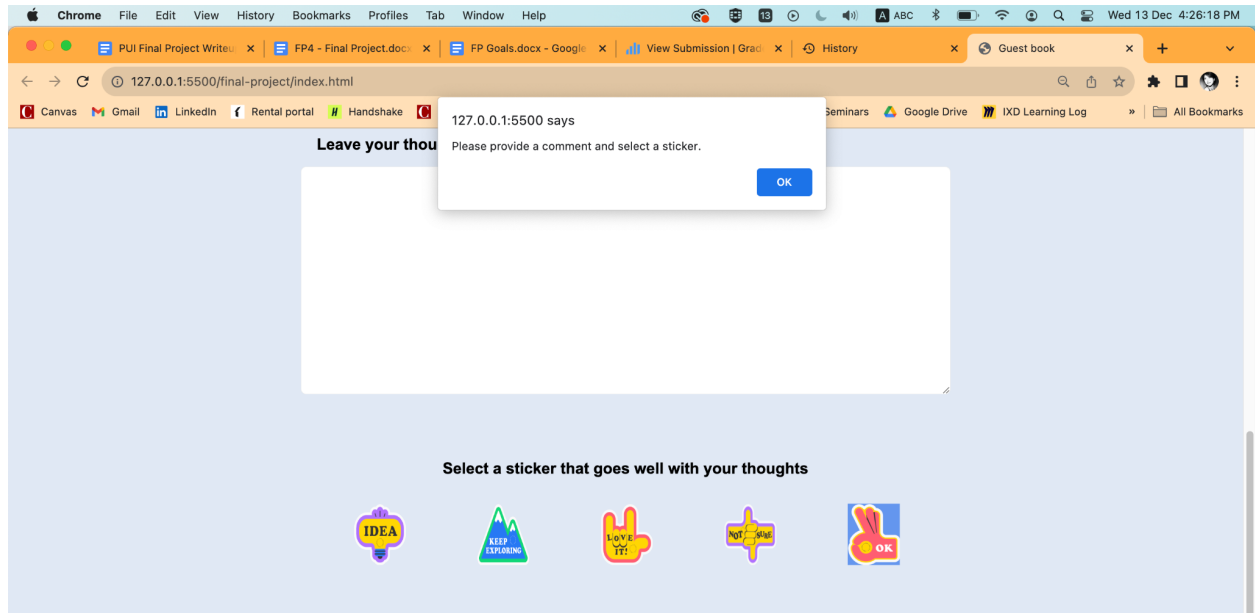
Your portfolio is impressive! I really like the way you blend creativity and functionality in your designs. Each project tells a unique story, and it's clear you put thought into every detail. Keep up the great work!



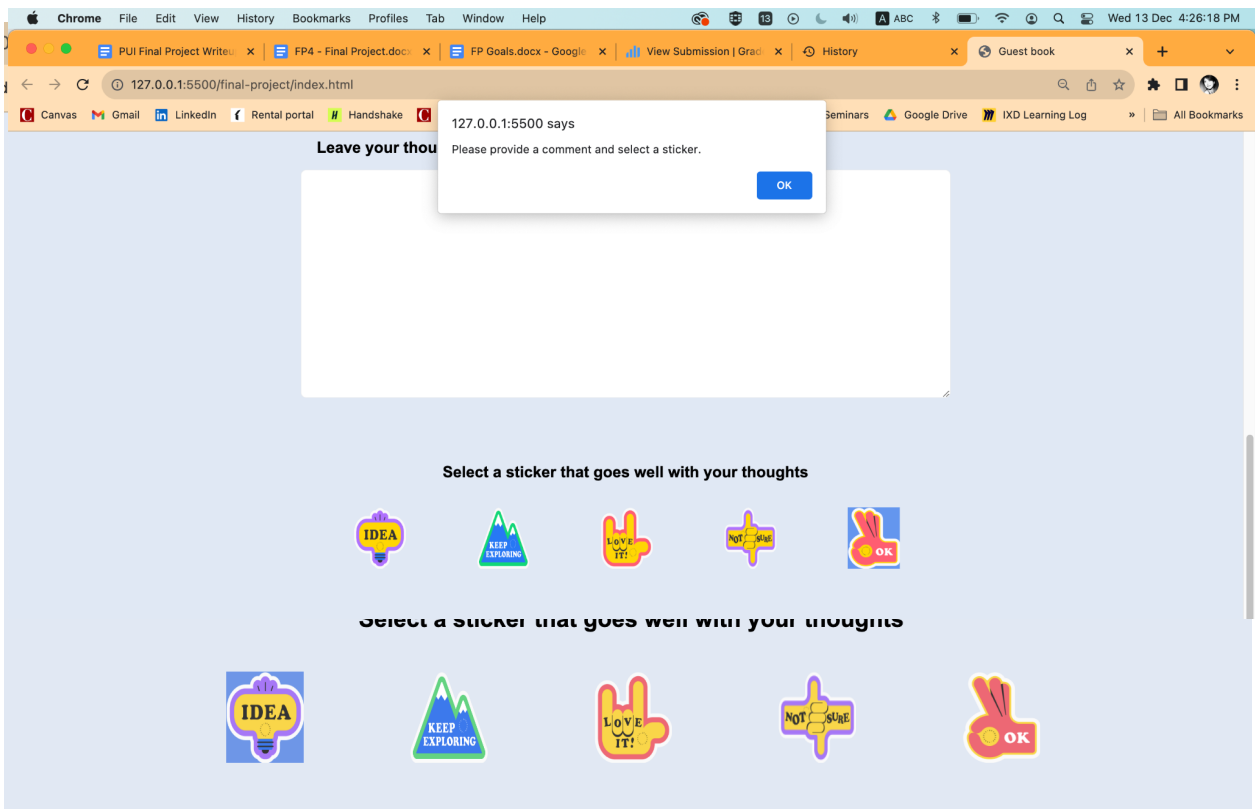
Really loving your portfolio! Your designs are clean and eye-catching. Great job on the attention to detail.



Flipping between different pages



Error message



Success message