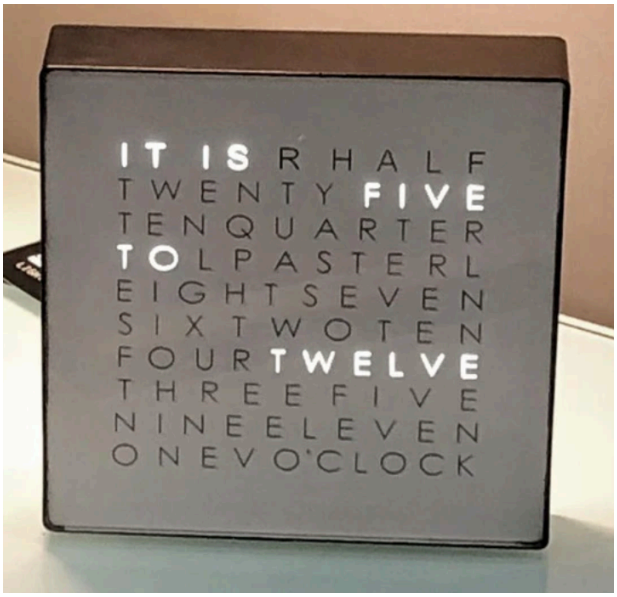
Project Proposal

Project description

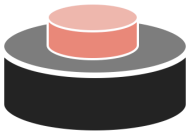
The goal I had for this project was to create a simple interactive installment piece which provided people, who were using it, some positive emotional impact / comfort. This motive specifically came from encountering numerous anonymous posts online from people of NYUAD who were going through a emotionally tough time (overwhelmed, stressed, sad, lonely, etc). I wanted to specifically target those individuals and provide them with some encouragement through my piece.

While browsing for ways to achieve this, I came across a word clocks. A Word clock is a flat surface with letters cut out, with lights shining through the cuttings. Couple of pre-selected words required to describe the time are displayed and they light up according to the time. I was inspired by the physical design of the product.



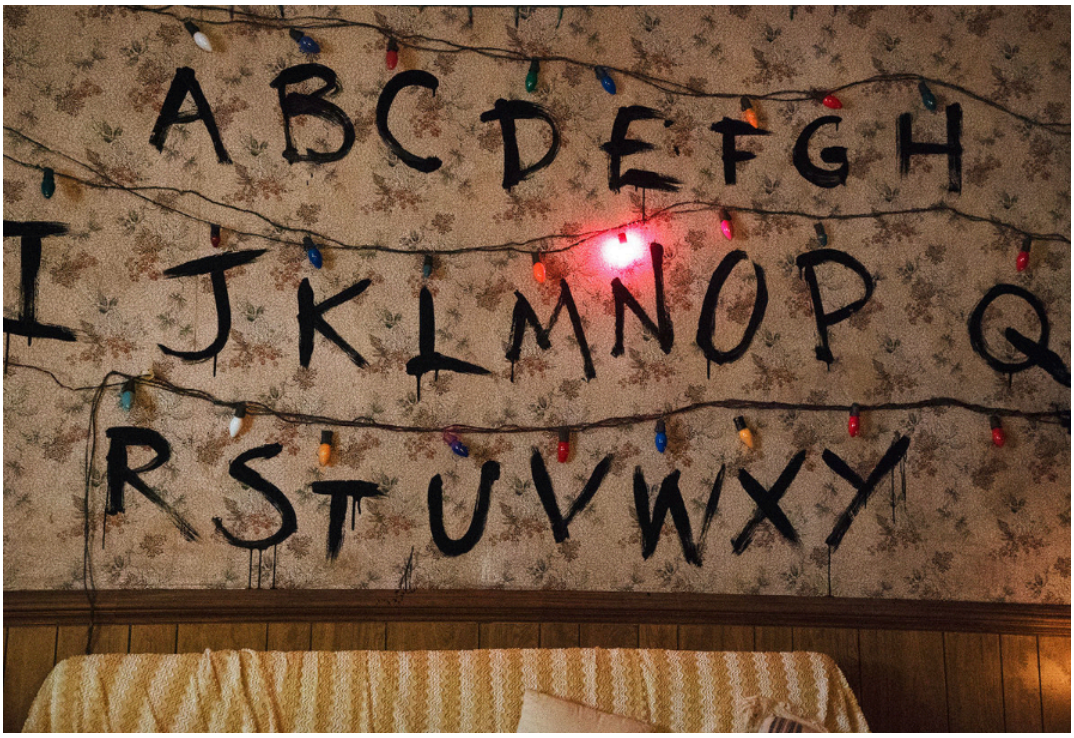
Instead of displaying the time, I want to display messages and words of encouragement. However, picking a pre-set collection of words limits the range of messages I could deliver.

To alleviate this issue, instead of cutting out words, I will cut out the entire alphabet and install LEDS behind every letter. The message will reveal itself one letter at a time. The message will most likely be a short (around 3 words). It would look like something below.

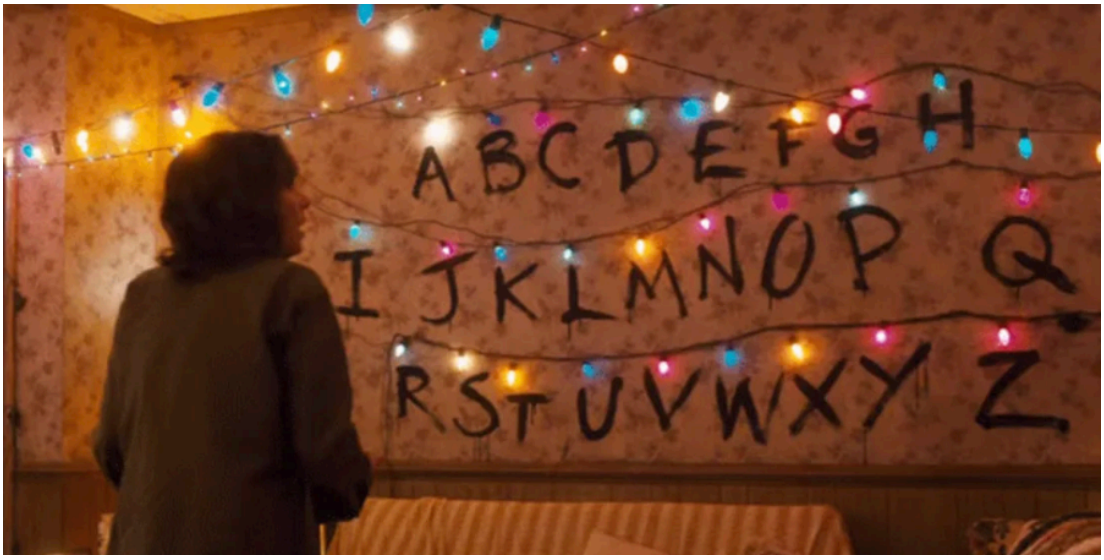


When the user presses the button, the letters of the message will start display one by one with the LEDS behind each letter.

When I shared this idea to one of my friends, they mentioned that a similar method of communication was featured in one of Stranger Thing's Episodes. It was used for the mother to communicate with the child (?). I have not yet seen the episode.



She mentioned that the entire set of lights light up when there is a person present to catch their attention initially.



This could perhaps be adapted to my piece through using a distance sensor to sense the presence of a person walking by, or sound / light sensor.

Equipment Required:

- Breadboard
- 25 RGB LED
- Flat Board (Laser Cutter)
- Button
- Arduino
- PCF8574 expander (To increase output)