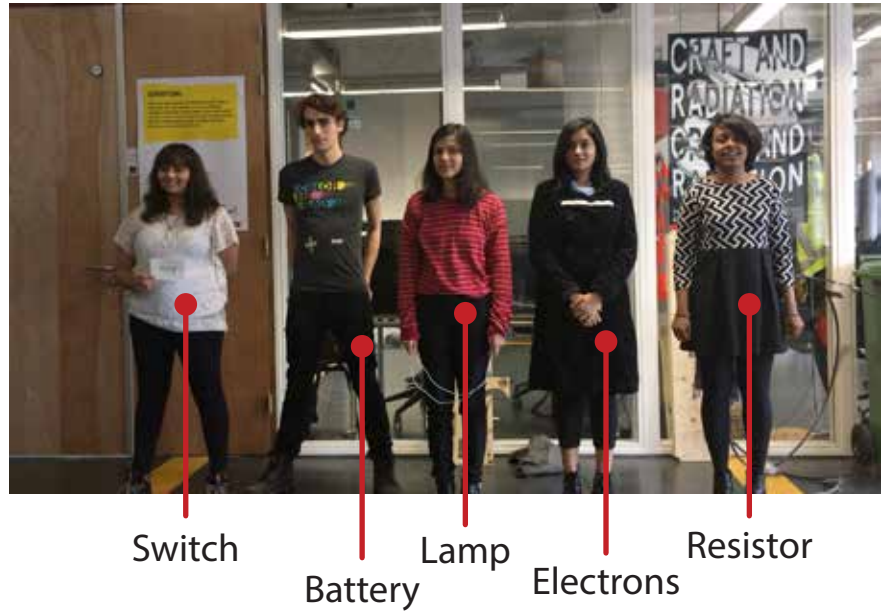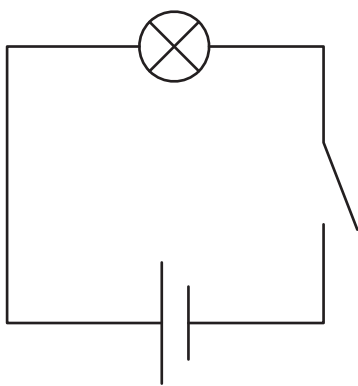# What does a Resistor do?
How does it help a circuit?

A resistor is an electrical component that decreases the amount, or resists, the current going through a certain point. Resistors help protect other circuit components from being overloaded.

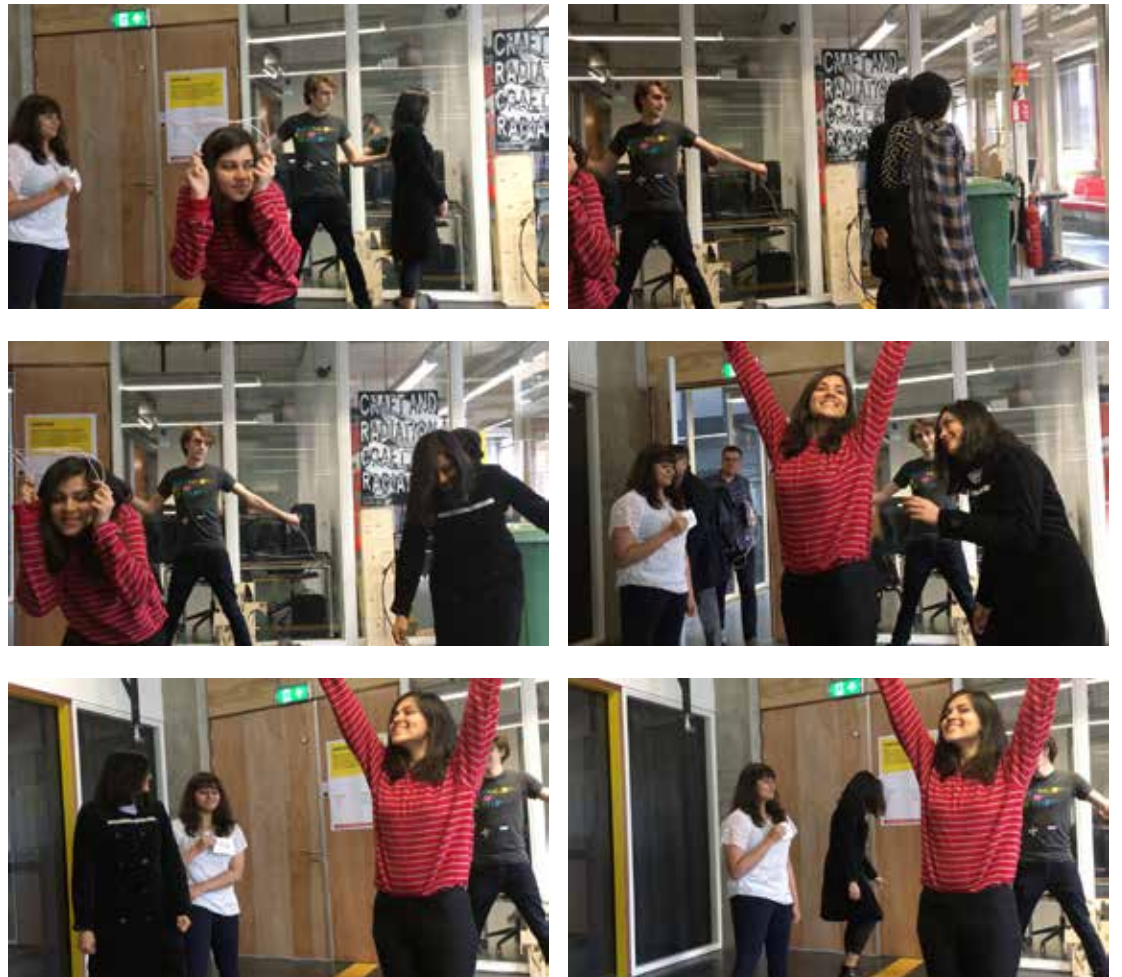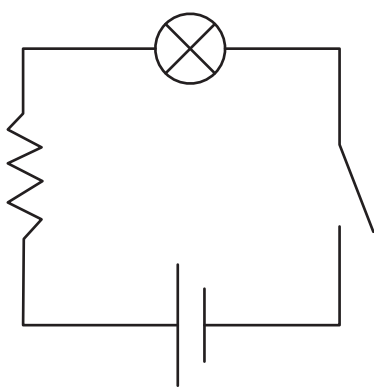Our group demonstrated the benefits of resistors in the examples below.

Switch   Battery   Lamp   Electrons   Resistor

Bad Circuit

In this circuit, because there is no resistor to decrease the current, the load (a lamp) is overloaded. The lamp is "killed" by the electrons.

Good Circuit

With the addition of a resistor, the electrons are forced to slow down. Because of this, the lamp is able to turn on without burning out.

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