

CS 335 – Cover Letter  
April 7, 2018

Brother Hathaway,

I have thoroughly enjoyed the knowledge I have gained in your class. Before the start of the semester I was familiar with using Python for data wrangling, but I had never delved into analyzing data, let alone using R. However, I can confidently say that I now know how to start the process of analysis using R and packages such as the *tidyverse*. These tools are incredibly powerful and, when used with expertise, can result in amazing discoveries.

I have learned how to use *dplyr* to wrangle data into a tidy format, observations as rows and variables as columns, that can be used easily for plotting through *ggplot2*. I've learned not to be afraid to go beyond expectations, something that I tried to do throughout this semester. It helps that I was intrigued by what I was learning about various datasets.

I think the most important thing I learned and that I have subconsciously started to apply is to never take something at face value. I have to try to understand and discover deeper meanings hidden within data and I have to be skeptical of claims that are made with no data readily available. Understanding the why behind the data is crucial to feeling empathy toward the subjects, often human, portrayed inside each row.

I plan to keep using these skills throughout the rest of my life. I have found a few other projects to work on such as creating customizable dashboards for health clinics and helping a man who is running for state senate in Utah understand more about the districts that he needs to influence. These are some interesting challenges that I'm looking forward to tackling while doing my internships this year.

I believe that my work in this class is worth an "A" because of the time and passion that I have put into each assignment. I often went over 10 hours for a case study, not because it was difficult but because I wanted to see multiple aspects of the data and understand how to find answers for the customer. I have completed all tasks and case studies.

Thank you,  
Etienne Beaulac