James Benedict

Hi y'all,

I'm James, a visual journalist born in Texas, educated in Indiana and living in New York. I've specialized in data-driven reporting and interactive design. Most recently, I worked with the Reuters National Desk investigating **Taser-related deaths** which prompted a **UN investigation** and condemnation. Before that I worked for the Indiana Daily Student, where I produced **custom story designs**, **graphics**, **maps**, **photo illos** and managed their **digital redesign**.

A reader shouldn't have to fight the story's medium to make sense of it. I think of myself as a quick learner who adapts my methods to each story I tell, whether that's with a D3 chart or a clean UI. My history as a designer and reporter lets me understand my teammate's point of view without losing sight of the reader's experience. I'll make stories understandable to the uninformed readers as well as engaging to the experts.

As a primarily self-taught coder, I owe a debt to well documented websites. I pay this forward by always writing clear documentation and communicating with my team. I believe documentation forces me to be more conscious of my work and encourages cooperation. I'm always open to constructive criticism because I know there's something to learn from every opinion.

Like you, I appreciate brevity. I know I'll excel in an interdisciplinary shop like yours because I do my best work experimenting. It would be a dream work with an innovative organization like yours that puts the reader's experience above tradition. Also, I know I could learn so much from your team and would be excited to push myself to learn something new everyday.

Right now, I have the ability to turn raw data into a compelling visual or an explanatory story on deadline. I would love to continue working on topics I've previously reported on like campaign finance and police use of force. The data is out there, it is just up to us to humanize it and make people want to explore it

You can review my work on my **portfolio** or **github**. My resume includes my references' contact information. Thank you for considering my application for the Data Visualization position and I hope to hear from you soon.

James