James Benedict

Hi Y'all,

I'm a front end developer from Texas and Indiana who has specialized in interactive and user experience design. Most recently, I worked with the Reuters National Desk investigating **Taser** related deaths. Before that, I graduated from Indiana University with degrees in Journalism and Informatics. There I got hooked on computer science after discovering it was pretty much professional puzzle solving, and I hope I can help you solve some of your problems.

This junior development position would be a fantastic opportunity for me as a recent graduate. I excelled in my classes about Python, data visualization, SQL and relational database design, and would love to gain real world experience with these skills. Most of my professional history is as a journalist, where I built **graphics**, **websites** and **tools** to best tell stories. My senior year I managed the team **redesigning** the Indiana Daily Student's website, in which I used my knowledge of our CMS, the editors' needs, and our users' behavior to build a more modern product. I'm also a careful worker who has reported on a litigious company for the Reuters. As a journalist I used Python to speed up my life, whether that meant communicating with the census' API or organizing hundreds of images.

As a self-taught front end developer, I owe a debt to well documented websites. I pay this forward by always writing my documentation, and trying to train as many people as I can. I believe writing documentation is more important than writing code because it encourages cooperation and makes me more conscious of my decisions developing. At my student publication, a **template** I wrote trained more than twenty designers and became integral to the curriculum of the most advanced visual storytelling class at Indiana University.

I'm a quick learner who adapted my journalism from words to pictures to graphics to tools to whatever best served the story. I believe my versatility and curiosity will continue pushing me to learn more and challenge myself. I already have the base knowledge of Python and am excited about working more with frameworks like Django. Due to my lack of experience I would be happy to work a freelance contractor in the beginning because I know I will prove my value quickly.

You can view the works referenced above on my **portfolio** and see how they were made on my **github**. My **resume** includes my references' contact information. Thank you in advance for considering my application for the Jr. Python Developer and I hope to hear from you soon

All the best,
James Benedict