

James Benedict



I am a visual journalist specializing in user experience and interactive design. The reader is always my first concern, whether that means **graphing statistics**, deciphering a **complicated database** or designing **an article** to read easier. Whatever I'm working on I make sure the reader doesn't have to fight the story's medium to make sense of it.

I want to make a difference in my community and I know you will teach me the best ways to do this while I produce meaningful work. My skills as an interactive designer and data-savvy reporter makes me well suited to make your thorough reporting approachable without over simplifying it. Bloomberg understands that businesses can have just as much power as the government over our lives and acts as a watchdog to all. You also understand that a story needs to capture the reader's attention, and as one it is clear you value bold design. I would be grateful to work with an organization that shares my passion of making accountability journalism engaging.

I'm a quick learner who adapts to each story I tell. I have the most experience with responsive web development, data visualization and user experience design. My goal is to make news apps and graphics, but I need more hands on experience with libraries like Node and Angular. I would love to learn more about this alongside all the talented developers excelling at Bloomberg.

In my work I've contextualized a story about the **opioid crisis** through clear graphics and mapped **campus crime** to avoid explaining my finding with statistic laden paragraphs. As a reporter I've tried to make complex stories approachable, like tracking money spent on **Indiana elections** and helping create the first comprehensive **Taser related deaths** database at Reuters. I've also managed large projects, like **redesigning** the Indiana Daily Student's website, which required me to evolve my mockups based on users' feedback.

I'm always looking to improve my efficiency, which led me to create a **web design template**. Beyond reducing my time designing longform stories, it's trained more than twenty student media designers and became integral to the curriculum of the most advanced visual storytelling class at Indiana University. Additionally, my Python proficiency allows me to quickly solve problems like cleaning data and analyzing it in a jupyter notebook on deadline.

I am a multidisciplinary developer who enjoys experimenting almost as much as I love telling stories. On a team I believe writing documentation is more important than writing code because it encourages cooperation and makes me more conscious of my decisions designing. My work as a designer, reporter and programmer allows me to empathize with the whole team and makes me well suited for this collaborative job.

If given the opportunity to work with you, I would appreciate reporting on police use of force and campaign finance. The data is out there it is just up to us to humanize it and make readers want to explore it.

You can view the works referenced above on my **portfolio** and see how they were made on my **github**. Thank you in advance for considering my application for the News Intern with the graphic department, and please contact me for my references. I hope to hear from you soon.