

James Benedict



Hi everyone,

I'm James, a front end developer who specializes in interactive and user interface design. I practice user-centered design and the viewer is always my first concern. This comes in many forms. Sometimes I develop **graphics** while other times I make **tools** to train other designers to make better websites.

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. Also as someone with remote work experience I understand the necessity of maintaining open communication with everyone on the team.

The opportunity to work for a non-profit news organization is a dream of mine because I believe it is the best business model to foster accountability journalism. Working a INN would also allow my to fulfill my desire to create open tools that allow others to do their jobs easier.

One example of me doing this was when I designed an educational web development **template** for the Indiana Daily Student (IDS). 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.

I've also worked as a front end developer for the IDS , where I contextualized a story about the opioid crisis through **clear graphics** and **mapped campus crime** to avoid explaining my finding with statistic laden paragraphs. I've managed large projects, like **redesigning the IDS website**, that required me to evolve my mockups based on users' feedback.

I've also worked remotely as a **data reporter for Reuters**, where we created the first comprehensive Taser related database. This six month apprenticeship taught me how to be extremely careful in my work, meet tight deadlines and work on large teams remotely .

I am a multidisciplinary developer who enjoys experimenting almost as much as I love telling stories. 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.

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 front end developer and designer position.

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