James Benedict

Graphics and Development
jamesbenedict0@gmail.com
jamesbenedict.github.io
317 - 544 - 8031

I am visual journalist who uses data and design to help make complicated stories clearer. I've focused on stories about healthcare and politics. I felt called to join a profession that keeps those in power accountable after my dad lost his job during the Enron collapse and my family had to move across the country.

You can checkout my work here and the repos here.

I have a passion for reporting but believe design is just as necessary for good storytelling. What good is it if someone can't understand what I'm trying to say? I also believe there are a lot more ways than one to tell a story, which is why I studied interactive design. I hope to use my data analysis skills to uncover stories that serve the public while using my development skills to present them in an intriguing manner.

I also share your team's interest in open source development. After a year working as a digital longform designer for the Indiana Daily Student I developed a longform template and helped train print designers how to use make interactive websites. Since its implantation the number of longform articles have skyrocketed.

I initially created it to give back to a community that had given me my start in digital design, but I also received something in return. As more people used the template the better it became. I now realize nothing will show you the gaps in your project faster than asking a lot of people to start using it. The changes other designers made to the base code made me reevaluate and improve my own design. I appreciate that they didn't use my code as a strict style guide but instead as a foundation to build their own project.

I want to make a difference in my community and genuinely believe the best way to do that is by making information more accessible and understandable to the average person. I know data visualization and reporting will help my achieve this and I hope to hone these skills with your team this summer.

Thanks you,
James Benedict