

# James Benedict

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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 each 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.

At Reuters I played an integral role creating a first of its kind database and demonstrated my ability to acquire data on deadline, using tools like Python and Excel along the way. It was the most fulfilling work of my life because I knew it would make a difference in people's lives so often marginalized by the media and government. Work like this happens every day at the Marshall Project and I would love to contribute to your team.

My first love is with visual journalism because it makes the complicated approachable and the abstract tangible. A **map** I made of campus crimes and the locations of Indiana University's security beacons lent credibility to our story without burdening the reader with statistic laden paragraphs. For another story about the **opioid crisis**, I connected the individuals's stories to the broader crisis by finding and visualizing multiple datasets in a custom made website.

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 designers and became integral to the curriculum of the most advanced visual storytelling class at Indiana University. I took what I learned building that and helped integrate it into our CMS when I was the project manager for the Indiana Daily Student's digital redesign.

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 Web Developer position and I hope to hear from you soon.

All the best,  
James Benedict