James Benedict

I'm a recent graduate from Indiana University where I earned a BA in Journalism and a certificate in Informatics (28 credit hours). After graduation I had a six month internship at Reuters where we investigated the role **Tasers** played in more than a thousand deaths. While it was fantastic to get a hands on education about data reporting, I want to return to my first love of designing the news.

For complex, data rich stories a reader shouldn't have to fight against the story's medium make sense of it. I've received awards for telling stories with **graphics**, **tools**, **pictures** and **data**. I have extensive professional experience with responsive web development, data visualization and user interface design. I've worked on data-driven investigative series that blend traditional reporting with Python, SQL and Excel. Additionally, in my courses about Python I made web applications, scraped websites, made exploratory data visualizations and more. I think of myself as a quick learner who adapts to tell stories in accessible ways.

Reporting alongside another reporter on the **opioid** crisis, I was able to contextualize the story by finding and visualizing multiple datasets. This was one of the **many projects** I used my webdesign **template** to improve the user's experience on a longer story. My focus on user centered design was even more valuable as the project manager and art director for the Indiana Daily Student's website **redesign**.

Beyond telling stories, I've addressed inefficiencies with programming. At the Indiana Daily Student I developed a well documented **template** that allowed others to focus on designing and not debugging. More than fifteen designers used this to learn to code, and it is now integral to the most advanced visual storytelling class at Indiana University's Media School. I can solve problems with Python on deadline as well. At Reuters I automated part of my reporting by using a script to search through hundreds of pages of legal documents while I called sources.

I'm a curious developer who enjoys experimentation almost as much I love telling stories. My backgrounds in design, programming and reporting allows me to empathize with everyone on the team, and makes me well suited for this collaborative position. You can view the works referenced above on my **website** and see how they were made on my **github**.

Thank you in advance for considering my application for the News Developer and I hope to hear from you soon.