Interview HRS= 82 [1 month] Summary: [Ben Brockman]

[April 12, 2021]

**WHY AM I DOING THIS**

As part of my curriculum through Springboard, I decided to interview Ben Brockman. Ben Brockman is the Director of Data Science and Data Engineering at IDInsight, a non-profit organization that focuses on international development. The purpose of the conversation was to get a better handle of entry data science roles, warm referrals, resources I should be looking at. What was particularly helpful was feedback provided on doing an informational interview.

**WHAT DID I DO**

During the conversation, we covered all four of these topics extensively. Brockman explained what he normally discusses during an informational interview: why you want to have the meeting, and mining information about the person you are speaking with beforehand. He strongly encouraged allowing the person you are interview some “blank space” so that the conversation can be interactive. Brockman gave me several resources to look for, including flashcards.

**HOW WOULD YOU EVAUATE THIS INTERVIEW**   
The major takeaways that resonated with me were how to give a good informational interview, and giving precedence to the interviewee’s point of view. He explained the importance of the perspective of the interviewee and the etiquette for a data science interview. I also appreciated some of the resources that are being used that I want to explore further, such as data science flash cards and finding a particular focus given how wide the data science field is. His advice was that most interviewers want to see a candidate that is willing to learn and adaptable rather than having specialized skills already. Brockman also gave me good examples of candidate profiles and what might stand out to an industry practitioner.

**HOW HAS YOUR LIFE CHANGED AS A RESULT OF THIS INTERVIEW**   
I have already looked at and purchased the industry flashcards. I also plan to take the advice to “mine” information about my interviewer in advance to have a more tailored, authentic conversation.