COVER LETTER

To the folks at CNN,

My name is Khyatee Desai, and I’ve been working as a solutions architect with Amazon Web Services for the past two years in New York City. This job has given me a tremendous amount of insight into the tech and business worlds, and has pushed me to be a continuous learner of new skills and technical tools.   
  
My background is in Data Analytics and User Experience Design. As a long-term career goal, I want to use the combination of these two specializations to pursue data-driven visual storytelling, which is what draws me to this role in particular. One applicable project I worked on recently uses datasets on Covid-19 in NYC to create heat maps that visualize the discrepancies in testing across the NYC zip codes. You can explore this project and others here: <https://www.khyateedesai.com/projects.html>.

From an anthropological perspective, I am extremely passionate about exploring how different factors (gender, race, disability, etc) play a role in the historical inequities that persist todays society. As a resident of NYC, Race & Policing is a topic that hits very close to home, and I feel that I could make a significant contribution to telling the story fairly and accurately. It is my duty as a compassionate human to stand up against what is unjust, but it is my duty as a data-driven tech professional to tell that story through an unbiased lense by using numbers, visualizations, and facts.

During the early months of the Covid-19 pandemic when many things were unknown, I sought a lot of comfort from one thing each night: CNN late-night shows. I became a religious viewer of Chris Cuomo and Don Lemon’s daily shows, not necessarily because they could provide all the answers, but because they created a daily space for thought and reflection amidst an extremely turbulent time. I want to contribute to the organization that I have always relied on to report the facts, and that had given me a sense of routine and stability when I needed it most.

I’m really excited about the potential opportunity of working with you, and look forward to hearing back on potential next steps.

Thank you,

Khyatee Desai

July 31, 2020