

I've never been to church. My dad is a Buddhist and my mom a witch, but my brothers and I turned out fairly faithless. Since my upbringing, I have been a sucker for looking at the world through a lens of evidence and data as compared to anecdotes and faith. The type of political reporting FiveThirtyEight does is not about partisanship and blind belief in a candidate, but about what is realistically and mathematically possible. Your reporters take seemingly abstract trends and numbers, and turn them into something far more concrete and imaginable than partisanship. That is why I am writing to apply for the fall 2016 politics internship with FiveThirtyEight.

I am president of the University of Arizona chapter of the Online News Association. Eager to participate on the forefront of journalism, we began working with our own virtual reality tools to create 360-degree immersive journalism. While working on this project, I became confident in my ability to learn, teach and use technology in my reporting. I learned that I could jump into any new situation and thrive.

As a research assistant for the department of communications at the University of Arizona, I was a part of discovering the role journalists play in why young people don't turn out to the polls during midterm elections. I also learned the importance of efficiency, accuracy and caffeine when you're in the final stretch of research.

Effectively reporting on stories with a combination of interactive media and text is just one of the traits I can bring to FiveThirtyEight as a politics intern. Beyond the 360-degree scope, I can tell a story through photographs and videos. My ability to code in JavaScript, CSS and HTML has proved endlessly helpful in decoding frustrating files and creating interactive maps and graphics.

As a reporter at my university paper, the *Daily Wildcat*, I fought for interviews with then-candidate Martha McSally and then-incumbent Ron Barber, phrasing my questions carefully to get down to the reasons behind spiking tuition costs and job losses.

While working at the *Wildcat*, I was constantly challenged to think creatively to improve the paper. I succeeded in pushing for the creation of the *Wildcat's* first investigative desk in response to an absence of long-form pieces. As investigative editor, I led reporters to produce stories on cocaine use on campus, job prospects for UA graduates and the UA's lack of child-care options for students with children.

I am detail-oriented, have overwhelming reporting and research experience, am familiar with electoral politics and I can name every vice presidential candidate since I've been alive — I'm working on the rest.

I hope that, as a politics intern, I will gain the necessary experience to take my data-driven journalism to the next level in order to effectively engage and inform citizens in 21st century democracies about politics and policy.

As a politics intern with FiveThirtyEight, I will be able to draw on the dependability, innovation and passion I gave to the *Daily Wildcat*, the *Daily Star*, the *Tucson Sentinel*, Madden Media and *Bottle Magazine* every day. I do so with great sincerity and love for the work I'm able to do.