

David H. Montgomery

Journalist, coder, designer & cartographer passionate about explaining the world

Experience

Data reporter, APM Reports, St. Paul, Minn. (2018-present)

Freelance journalist, St. Paul, Minn. (2017-present)

- Worked with clients including HuffPost and Morning Take
- Funded election map project by running Kickstarter campaign

Data reporter (contract), MPR News, St. Paul, Minn. (2017)

- Analyzed & visualized data for 160,000-data point survey
- Created ggplot theme to instantly apply company style to charts

Political reporter, Pioneer Press, St. Paul, Minn. (2014-2017)

- Focused on explaining instead of incremental coverage
- Produced hundreds of maps, charts & interactive graphics
- Used deep datasets, such as records of 224,915 speeding tickets
- Found trends in innovative data, such as 31,000 roll call votes or 150,000 words from 39 State of the State speeches
- Demystified complex topics, including through a seven-article series about a key but obscure health insurance proposal
- Programmed election-night Twitter-bot to automatically create & publish maps of results
- Championed digital-first journalism with experimental storytelling

Political reporter, Argus Leader, Sioux Falls, S.D. (2012-2014)

- Led multimedia coverage of state & federal politics for largest newspaper in South Dakota
- Wrote dozens of articles per week during legislative sessions
- Launched reported blog with stories, analysis & graphics

Political reporter, Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, S.D. (2010-2012)

Reporter, Capital Journal, Pierre, S.D. (2008-2010)

Awards

The Washington Post's best state-based political coverage:

Best political reporter (2013), political blogger (2013) & political tweeter (2011) in South Dakota

Second Place, Best News Series, 2013 South Dakota Newspaper Association (SDNA) Awards

Finalist, General News Reporting, 2014 Great Plains Journalism Awards

First Place, Best News Series, 2009 SDNA Awards;

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Skills

Journalism

- Swift, clean writing in AP Style
- Mastery of politics, policy & government
- Data analysis through code & Excel
- Shooting & editing photo & video
- Distinctive & informative use of Twitter

Code

- Expert: R, ggplot and Shiny for analysis, visualization & interactives.
- Intermediate: HTML, CSS, MySQL
- Basic: Python, JavaScript/D3, Bash

Design

- Expert: Photoshop, Illustrator & InDesign; ggplot
- Intermediate: WordPress & Jekyll website design & management; Tableau

Cartography

- Expert: QGIS
- Intermediate: Leaflet, Carto, and Fusion Tables; programmatic maps in R

Appearances

- BBC News, MSNBC, CBS News, C-SPAN Radio, MPR News, SDPB, The Gist, TPT

Education

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science
Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA, May 2008

Contact

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