Owen Auston-Babcock (he/him)
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SUMMARY
Enterprising, beat-agnostic reporter with formal data science education. Proven track record of identifying off-the-beaten-path stories, holding powerful people accountable, exercising ethical judgment and exploring new technology to best find and tell stories. Technically skilled data analyst and communicator.

EDUCATION
American University, Washington, D.C.
Pursuing: Bachelor of Science, double major in Data Science and Journalism   Expected May 2026

EXPERIENCE
NBC News
News Intern, Political Unit   Sept. 2025 - April 2026
- Wrote and researched more than 20 stories, focusing on elections and polls. Jan. 20 data dive got 500k+ views.
- Collected and analyzed political data, namely with OpenFEC API and ad trackers.

Investigative Reporting Workshop
Data and Investigative Reporting Fellow   Feb. - Aug. 2025
- Pitched, reported and wrote investigative and data-driven stories.

The Eagle (American University student newspaper)
Investigations & Data Editor   May 2025 - Present
- Guided all enterprise projects and supervised five investigative reporters and one data reporter.
- Advised reporters across sections on how to best use data in our storytelling.
- Created and edited data visualizations; edited numbers-heavy copy for easy understanding.

Administration Editor   Jan. - April 2025
- Manage one reporter and support numerous others through our coverage of the university administration.
- Pitch, guide and edit daily, breaking and in-depth stories about the administration; write breaking news.

Investigative Reporter   Oct. 2023 - Dec. 2024
- Scooped out-of-order COVID-19 test vending machines and broken emergency blue lights.
- Broke numerous in-depth and breaking news stories about three student sexual misconduct cases.
- Created a comprehensive toolkit for campus reporting; wrote a guide on covering crime & safety.

Local News Reporter   May - Oct. 2023
Student Government Reporter   Sept. 2022 - May 2023

The Associated Press
Team Leader, Elections Web Scraping   Feb. - Aug. 2025
- Oversee teams of 5-10 web scrapers during live tabulation, troubleshooting their code.

Election Results Web Scraper   Feb. 2024 - Feb. 2025
- Live collection of county-level results by scraping election boards' websites using Python in Selenium.

American University School of Communication
Research Assistant   Jan. - May 2025
- Conduct interviews with community leaders for a journalism professor's study of diversity in local news coverage.

Current: News for People in Public Media
Editorial Intern   May - Aug. 2024
- Reported and wrote articles on the public media system's legal issues, policies and programs for Current.org.
- In enterprise project, used Census Bureau API and scraped FCC website to analyze diversity of public media boards.

SKILLS
- Advanced programming in Python and R. Experienced in web scraping, APIs, model-building and analysis.
- Wrangling geographic data/shapefiles. Visualization, mapping and GIS. Obtaining satellite and open-source imagery.
- Front-end development with HTML, CSS, JavaScript and Shiny deployments; built my own website. VCS in Git/GitHub.
- Talented at obtaining public records through dozens of FOIAs. Conversational Spanish; advanced reading/writing.