

# Case 20: Can the crew post this image as true?

## Content note

The real sources include AI-generated images from disasters such as Hurricane Helene. Preview them, and do not share images of real people in distress, even to debunk them.

## Overview

Students read a short story in which a realistic image captioned “Courtyard flooded today, stay away” spreads through a campus group chat. They compare the image, Sami’s zoom-in, a secondhand reply, a detector score and the campus alerts page with NIST’s overview of detection. They then write the verification note Jordy posts instead of the image.

## Before this case

Students should already be able to:

- trace a claim to its earliest source
- write a short public note that states uncertainty
- write a memo with recommendations for a named office

## Objectives

Students will be able to:

- write a verification note that reaches no unsupported verdict
- treat the 12% score and the odd hand as reasons to look closer, not proof

## Objectives, continued

- recommend two changes the office that runs the alerts page could make
- represent NIST’s point that no single approach settles whether content is synthetic

## Materials

- This chapter, one copy per participant
- Evidence A to D, the NIST summary and the RumorGuard check on the Helene image
- A chain chart: claim, earliest source, date, corroboration

## The task in this edition

**Task:** Write the verification note the crew posts instead of the image. Then write a memo recommending two changes to the campus facilities alerts page that would help students check rumors.

**Students make:** Verification note, 50—80 words, plus a memo of 250—350 words

## Pacing

**Opener (page 400):** 4 min. Short on time: 3 min. Read What happened aloud and go straight to the key terms.

**Key terms (pages 401 and 402):** 4 min. Short on time: 2 min. Read the key terms aloud. Skip Who is involved.

## Pacing, continued

**Look at the evidence (page 407):** 7 min. Short on time: 6 min. Participants fill in only the What it shows boxes.

**Look at the evidence (page 408):** 6 min. Short on time: 5 min. Participants fill in only the What it leaves out boxes.

**Key idea (pages 409 and 410):** 10 min. Short on time: 6 min. Skip In the news.

**Sort the evidence (page 411):** 6 min. Short on time: skip.

**Practice (page 412):** 5 min. Short on time: 4 min. Vote on the three options and skip the marked draft.

**Your task (pages 413 and 414):** 12 min. Short on time: 12 min.

**Your draft (page 415):** 25 min. Short on time: 25 min.

**Check your work (pages 416 and 417):** 8 min. Short on time: 5 min. Participants answer the Check your work questions only.

**Questions to discuss (pages 418 and 419):** 10 min. Short on time: 7 min. Use question 3 as a closing question.

**Talk about this case at home (page 420):** at home.

**Periods:** full chapter 97 minutes; one period 75 minutes.

# Case 20 plan, continued

## Standards

**Information Literacy VALUE Rubric** AAC&U’s rubric for finding, evaluating and using information for a purpose, ethically and legally. In this case: Students weigh a detector score, a secondhand reply and an alerts page for what each can show (Evaluate Information and Its Sources Critically).

**Critical Thinking VALUE Rubric** AAC&U’s rubric for exploring issues, evidence and assumptions thoroughly before forming a conclusion. In this case: Students separate whether the image was generated from whether the courtyard flooded before they reach a conclusion (Evidence).

**Information Creation as a Process** Information is made through a process, and how it was made affects what it can be trusted for. In this case: Students explain what provenance data, labels, watermarks and detection each record, using the NIST overview.

**Searching as Strategic Exploration** Searching for information is an exploration that takes planning, several sources and changes of direction. In this case: Students look for the earliest post and an independent source before they judge the claim.

## Codes of ethics

- **RTDNA Code of Ethics:** Truth and accuracy above all
- **SPJ Code of Ethics:** Seek Truth and Report It
- **PRSA Code of Ethics:** Disclosure of Information

## Heat map

- **Opener (page 400):** Low
- **Key terms (pages 401 and 402):** Low
- **Look at the evidence (page 407):** Low
- **Look at the evidence (page 408):** Low
- **Key idea (pages 409 and 410):** Low
- **Sort the evidence (page 411):** Low
- **Practice (page 412):** Low
- **Your task (pages 413 and 414):** Low
- **Your draft (page 415):** Low
- **Check your work (pages 416 and 417):** Low

## Try it at your school

### Pause before you share an image as news.

- Find where the image first appeared before reposting
- Check an official or independent source for the event
- If you can’t confirm it, say so or don’t share it

## Try it at your school, continued

- Suggest a “check before posting” rule for a club account you help run
- Who to ask:** School librarian or media specialist, journalism advisor, campus communications office
- Safety:** Don’t download or share images of real people that could embarrass or harm them, even to debunk them. Report harmful fakes to a trusted adult and the platform.

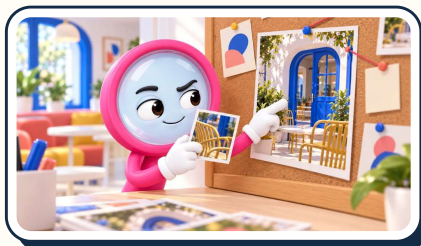
## Sources

- UC Berkeley School of Information, “Hany Farid breaks down the viral Helene image,” October 4, 2024
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), “Reducing Risks Posed by Synthetic Content: An Overview of Technical Approaches to Digital Content Transparency,” No date listed

## Case 20: Can the crew post this image as true?

A realistic image says the campus courtyard flooded today, and Jordy must decide what the six o'clock recap can say about it.

**On your own** Read What happened and underline the caption's claim. About 4 minutes.



Lupa holds a cropped photo of a courtyard next to the full photo pinned on a board. The full photo also shows a blue doorway.

**Your role:** You're the one who writes the verification note Jordy posts at six. **New skill:** Confirm an image with independent sources.

### What happened

It is Wednesday, 3:10 p.m. For twenty minutes, an image has been going around the group chat. It looks like a photo of the campus courtyard, with water over the paving and benches. The caption says, "Courtyard flooded today, stay away." It showed up at 2:48 p.m. with no link, no date and no name.

Jordy is putting together the crew's recap, which goes out at six. Sami has zoomed in on a hand in the picture, and the fingers seem to merge at the knuckles. Someone ran the image through a free online detector. It reported "12% likely AI-generated."

A reply in the chat says the writer's roommate's friend saw water near the library. Jordy checks the campus facilities alerts page. It shows no active alerts, but its last update was Monday morning.

**Your question:** Did the courtyard flood today, and what should the recap say about the image?

### ⌚ Pacing

Full chapter: 4 min.

✂ Short on time: 3 min. Read What happened aloud and go straight to the key terms.

### 💬 Say this

"This image lands in your chat with the caption "Courtyard flooded today, stay away." Would you share it?" — Ask for a show of hands. Do not correct anyone yet.

### 👁 Watch for

**Misconception:** Students decide from how real the image looks. **Listen for:** "It looks totally real, so it happened." **Then:** Ask what the image cannot tell you: who took it, when and where.

### 📖 Support

- Read What happened aloud. Describe the image aloud for students with low vision.

### 🔥 Heat check

■□□ Low.

## Key terms

**On your own** Read each key term and its example, then write your first guess in the box. About 4 minutes.

**Provenance** Provenance is information about where an image or a document came from and how it has been handled.

En español: procedencia

**In this case:** The courtyard image arrived at 2:48 p.m. with no link, no date and no named poster. Its provenance is unknown.

**Corroboration** Corroboration is support for a claim from an independent source.

En español: corroboración

**In this case:** A campus alert or someone's dated photo of the courtyard could corroborate the flood. A roommate's friend's report of water near the library cannot.

**Verification note** A verification note is a short record of what you checked, what you found and what is still unknown.

En español: nota de verificación

**In this case:** Instead of posting the image, the recap says what the crew checked, what it found and what is still unknown.

## Who is involved



**Sami**

Checking where the image came from

"Everyone's zooming in on the hand. I did too, and it's weird. But I still don't know who posted this."



**Jordy**

Putting the six o'clock recap together

"The recap goes out at six. Right now I have an image with no source, a strange hand and an alerts page that hasn't updated since Monday."

## ⌚ Pacing

Full chapter: 4 min.

✂ Short on time: 2 min. Read the key terms aloud. Skip Who is involved.

## 💬 Say this

"Provenance asks where a file came from. What do we know about this image's provenance?" — Only when it appeared, 2:48 p.m. No link, no date, no name.

## 👁 Watch for

**Misconception:** Students treat any second report as corroboration. **Listen for:** "Someone else saw water, so it's confirmed." **Then:** Ask who saw what, where and when. The report is secondhand, and the library is a different place from the courtyard.

## 📄 Support

- Pair students who share a language to explain each term with an example from the case.
- **Cognates:** image (imagen), evidence (evidencia), verification (verificación), corroboration (corroboración), original (original), confirm (confirmar), alert (alerta), independent (independiente).

## 🔥 Heat check

■□□ Low.

## 🔑 Answer key

Any first guess is fine. Students return to it on the My take page.

## Your first guess

Before you look at the evidence, do you think the courtyard flooded today?

My first guess is \_\_\_, because \_\_\_.

➤ My first guess is that nobody knows yet, because the post has no link or date.

## Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

This page continues page 401. The notes for both pages are on the sheet for page 401.

## Reading passage

### Verification under deadline

**On your own** Read the passage. At each Stop and think box, pause and answer the question in your head or with a partner. About 5 minutes.

#### Words to know

- **Provenance:** Provenance is information about where an image or a document came from and how it has been handled.
- **Corroboration:** Corroboration is support for a claim from an independent source.
- **Verification note:** A verification note is a short record of what you checked, what you found and what is still unknown.
- **Claim:** A claim is a statement that something is true. You can check a claim with evidence.
- **Holding statement:** A holding statement is a short update that says what is known, what is still being checked and when people will hear more.
- **Correction:** A correction is a public statement that replaces wrong information with accurate information.

### The story: Four clues and no source

The casebook closes where it opened, with a piece of media in a group chat and a group deciding what to tell people. At 2:48 p.m. on a Wednesday, an image of the campus courtyard under water appears with the caption “Courtyard flooded today, stay away.” It carries no link, no date and no original poster. Jordy has until six to decide what the crew’s recap will say.

By 3:10, four signals have accumulated. Sami’s zoom shows a hand whose fingers seem to merge at the knuckles. A free detector reports “12% likely AI-generated.” A secondhand message says someone’s roommate’s friend saw water near the library. The campus facilities alerts page shows no active alerts, with a last update on Monday at 9:15 a.m.

The case is designed so that none of these signals resolves the question, and several tempt overinterpretation. Sami models the necessary shift. She acknowledges the anomaly she found and then sets it aside in favor of provenance. Who posted the image first, and when? Jordy models the editorial decision. Wanting a clean answer is not a reason to publish one. The recap will say what was checked and leave the image out.

Your role is to write the verification note Jordy posts at six.

### ⌚ Pacing

Reading: about 5 min (748 words). Short on time: read it aloud together, pausing at each Stop and think.

### ❓ Stop and think

1. **After “The story: Four clues and no source”:** How does the absence of provenance change what the other clues can prove?
2. **After “An evidentiary standard for images”:** Why does hedging language fail to travel with an image?
3. **After “Technical limits and professional norms”:** Across twenty cases, which earlier skill mattered most in this one, and why?

? **Stop and think.** How does the absence of provenance change what the other clues can prove?

### An evidentiary standard for images

**Provenance** is information about where an image or a document came from and how it has been handled. For images that claim to show a news event, provenance is the primary question, and it applies the Case 1 skill of finding the original source. Its absence here shifts the burden to corroboration.

The caption asserts a **claim**, a statement that something is true that can be checked with evidence. The available signals differ in kind. The hand anomaly is diagnostic of nothing on its own, since generated images can look natural and genuine photos can look odd. The detector's output lacks the error rates that would make it interpretable, and it addresses whether the image is synthetic rather than whether the event occurred. The secondhand report is attenuated in source and mismatched in location.

**Corroboration** is support for a claim from an independent source. The official source, Case 9's habit, is the alerts page, and its staleness means its silence is weak evidence. An independent, dated image or a same-day official notice would be probative.

The case's new skill is confirming an image with independent sources and publishing only what was verified. The chosen output is a **verification note**, a short record of what you checked, what you found and what is still unknown. It is the structural descendant of Case 1's **holding statement**, which says what is known, what is still being checked and when people will hear more. It commits the crew to Case 3's duty of **correction**, a public statement that replaces wrong information with accurate information, if later evidence changes the picture. Jordy's refusal to post the image "with a question mark" reflects a practical insight. Hedging language does not travel with an image, and the image is what spreads.

? **Stop and think.** Why does hedging language fail to travel with an image?

### Technical limits and professional norms

NIST's overview of synthetic-content transparency surveys provenance metadata, labeling, watermarking and detection, and it emphasizes that each has technical limits (NIST, November 20, 2024). Perception offers no backstop. Nightingale and Farid found that people could not reliably distinguish AI-synthesized faces from real ones and rated synthetic faces as more trustworthy (PNAS, February 14, 2022).

Recent cases show the costs of skipping provenance.

This page continues page 403. The notes for both pages are on the sheet for page 403.

**Technical limits and professional norms, continued**

The Hurricane Helene “girl and puppy” image had no identifiable photographer or outlet, and forensic analysis found inconsistencies such as a boat floor with impossible perspective (UC Berkeley School of Information, October 4, 2024). Local reporting documented how emotion outran verification (KPRC Click2Houston, October 9, 2024). In 2023, a fabricated image of an explosion near the Pentagon spread through verified accounts and briefly moved markets (NPR, May 22, 2023; CNN, May 22, 2023). Critics now warn that AI content is spreading confusion across feeds (PBS NewsHour, October 22, 2025).

Professional codes treat verification and transparency about uncertainty as obligations. RTDNA says journalism “acknowledges the absence of important additional information” (RTDNA Code of Ethics, June 11, 2015). SPJ holds that the public “is entitled to as much information as possible to judge the reliability and motivations of sources” (SPJ Code of Ethics, September 6, 2014). PRSA asks practitioners to “investigate the truthfulness and accuracy of information released on behalf of those represented” (PRSA Code of Ethics, October 2000). A verification note meets all three standards, even when its conclusion is “we cannot confirm this yet.”

 **Stop and think.** Across twenty cases, which earlier skill mattered most in this one, and why?

**Sources**

**Real source** | National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) | November 20, 2024

**Reducing Risks Posed by Synthetic Content: An Overview of Technical Approaches to Digital Content Transparency**

**Real source** | PNAS (Nightingale & Farid) | February 14, 2022

**AI-synthesized faces are indistinguishable from real faces and more trustworthy**

**Real source** | UC Berkeley School of Information | October 4, 2024

**Hany Farid breaks down the viral Helene image**

**Real source** | KPRC Click2Houston | October 9, 2024

**Houstonians learn the cons of a viral AI-generated photo after Hurricane Helene**

**Real source** | NPR | May 22, 2023

**Fake viral images of an explosion at the Pentagon were probably created by AI**

**Real source** | CNN | May 22, 2023

**‘Verified’ Twitter accounts share fake image of ‘explosion’ near Pentagon, causing confusion**

**Real source** | PBS NewsHour | October 22, 2025

**AI content spreads confusion and misinformation, critics say**

This page continues page 403. The notes for both pages are on the sheet for page 403.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

This page continues page 403. The notes for both pages are on the sheet for page 403.

## Look at the evidence

**On your own** Read each document and write what it shows and what it leaves out. About 7 minutes.

### Evidence A | Group-chat post

#### The courtyard image and its caption

Image, described: a photo-like view of the campus courtyard with water over the paving and benches. A person in the foreground holds up a phone. Caption: "Courtyard flooded today, stay away." Shared Wednesday at 2:48 p.m. with no link, no date on the image and no original poster named.

**Look closely:** Underline what the caption claims. Circle what the post is missing.

#### What it shows

→ A same-day claim carried by a realistic image that arrived with no provenance.

#### What it leaves out

→ The earliest post, its date and place, and how the file was handled.

### Evidence B | Screenshot

#### Sami's zoom-in on the hand

Zoomed screenshot of the foreground hand: the fingers seem to merge at the knuckles. Sami posted it in the crew chat on Wednesday at 3:02 p.m.

**Look closely:** What does the odd hand tell you? What can it not tell you?

#### What it shows

→ An anomaly that justifies a closer look. It settles no question on its own.

#### What it leaves out

→ How the image was made, and whether a real photo from another day was reused.

## ⌚ Pacing

Full chapter: 7 min.

✂ Short on time: 6 min. Participants fill in only the What it shows boxes.

## 💬 Say this

"For each document, ask two questions: what can it show, and what can it not show?" — Model it on the odd hand: a reason to look closer, not proof.

## 👁 Watch for

**Misconception:** Students treat the detector score as a verdict. **Listen for:** "Twelve percent means it's real." **Then:** Ask what the tool measured and how often it is wrong. The score is silent about the flood.

## 📄 Support

- Describe the image and the zoomed hand aloud.
- Give each document on its own half-page with the key line enlarged.
- Cognates:** image (imagen), evidence (evidencia), verification (verificación), corroboration (corroboración), original (original), confirm (confirmar), alert (alerta), independent (independiente).

## 🔗 Stretch

- Ask which evidence bears on how the image was made and which bears on whether the courtyard flooded.

## 🔥 Heat check

■□□ Low.

## Look at the evidence, continued

### Evidence C | Detector result

#### A score from a free online detector

"12% likely AI-generated."

**Look closely:** What did the tool measure? Does it say anything about the flood?

#### What it shows

One unnamed tool's estimate, 12%, about how the image was made.

#### What it leaves out

Its error rates, what it measured, and whether the event happened.

### Evidence D | Web page

#### The campus facilities alerts page, checked at 3:10 p.m.

"No active alerts. Last update: Monday, 9:15 a.m. Scheduled elevator maintenance in Science Hall, completed."

**Look closely:** When was this page last updated? Compare that with the caption's claim.

#### What it shows

An official source with no courtyard alert, last updated Monday at 9:15 a.m.

#### What it leaves out

How fast the office posts same-day problems, so its silence proves little.

**What is still missing from the evidence?**

The image's earliest post and date, and whether it shows this courtyard today. Nobody has offered a dated firsthand photo, and the alerts page's same-day speed is unknown.

### ⌚ Pacing

Full chapter: 6 min.

✂ Short on time: 5 min. Participants fill in only the What it leaves out boxes.

### 💬 Say this

"For each document, ask two questions: what can it show, and what can it not show?" — Model it on the odd hand: a reason to look closer, not proof.

### 👁 Watch for

**Misconception:** Students treat the detector score as a verdict. **Listen for:** "Twelve percent means it's real." **Then:** Ask what the tool measured and how often it is wrong. The score is silent about the flood.

### 📄 Support

- Describe the image and the zoomed hand aloud.
- Give each document on its own half-page with the key line enlarged.
- Cognates:** image (imagen), evidence (evidencia), verification (verificación), corroboration (corroboración), original (original), confirm (confirmar), alert (alerta), independent (independiente).

### 🔗 Stretch

- Ask which evidence bears on how the image was made and which bears on whether the courtyard flooded.

### 🔥 Heat check

■□□ Low.

## Key idea: provenance

**On your own** Read the key idea and the code of ethics, then answer the question in the box. About 10 minutes.

**Provenance** is information about where an image or a document came from and how it has been handled. Check it first when an image claims to show a news event. An image can look polished and still be generated, edited, old or shared with the wrong caption. The courtyard image arrived with no link, no date and no named poster, so its provenance is unknown.

A detail or a tool can give a clue, but it cannot settle the question. An odd-looking hand is a reason to look closer. A natural-looking hand does not prove that an image is real, either. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) describes several ways to track, label, watermark and detect synthetic content, such as AI-generated images. NIST explains that each approach has technical limits.

For a claim about a real event, look for the earliest post, its date and place, and corroboration.

**Corroboration** is support for a claim from an independent source. Here, that could be a campus alert or someone's dated photo of the courtyard. If you cannot confirm the claim, write a verification note. A **verification note** is a short record of what you checked, what you found and what is still unknown.

### Professional standards

**Real source** | Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA)

#### RTDNA Code of Ethics: Truth and accuracy above all

"Journalism verifies, provides relevant context, tells the rest of the story and acknowledges the absence of important additional information."

**In plain words:** The RTDNA code asks news staff to say what they checked and to admit what they still do not know.

**Question:** The facilities page shows no active alerts but was last updated Monday. What should Jordy's note say is still unknown?

### Your answer

Still unknown: \_\_\_\_, because \_\_\_\_.

➡ Still unknown: whether the courtyard flooded and where the image came from, because a page last updated Monday cannot settle a Wednesday claim.

### ⌚ Pacing

Full chapter: 10 min.

✂ Short on time: 6 min. Skip In the news.

### 💬 Say this

"A clue can start a question. Can it end one? Look at the hand and the score." — Neither settles the question. Both are clues.

"The RTDNA code says journalism acknowledges missing information. What is missing here?" — Wait for the first post and a dated photo.

### 👁 Watch for

**Misconception:** Students treat the RTDNA code as a law.

**Listen for:** "The crew could get in legal trouble." **Then:** Say: "The RTDNA code is guidance for news staff. It is not a law."

### 📖 Support

- Preview the In the news sources. Do not show images of real people in distress, even to debunk them.

### 🔗 Stretch

- Use the SPJ row: what can the crew truthfully say about where the image came from?

### 🔥 Heat check

■□□ Low.

## In the news



Real source | NPR | May 22, 2023

## Fake viral images of an explosion at the Pentagon were probably created by AI

A realistic fake image spread fast and briefly moved markets before officials confirmed nothing happened.



Real source | CNN | May 22, 2023

## 'Verified' Twitter accounts share fake image of 'explosion' near Pentagon, causing confusion

A blue check was not proof: accounts that looked trustworthy still shared an image with no real source.

## Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue lines, resembling notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

This page continues page 409. The notes for both pages are on the sheet for page 409.

Sort the evidence

**On your own** Sort each piece of evidence under the claim it bears on and fill in each box. About 6 minutes.

Two claims are in play: the flood and the image. Sort each piece of evidence under the claim it actually bears on. What would settle either one?

| Evidence                                                       | Claim 1<br>The courtyard<br>flooded today. | Claim 2<br>The image was generated<br>by AI. |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1 The image shows water in a courtyard, with no date or source | <div>Supports</div>                        | <div>Neither</div>                           |
| 2 Facilities alerts page at 3:10 p.m.: no active alerts        | <div>Challenges</div>                      | <div>Neither</div>                           |
| 3 Secondhand report of water near the library                  | <div>Supports</div>                        | <div>Neither</div>                           |
| 4 An odd hand and a 12% detector score                         | <div>Neither</div>                         | <div>Leaves open</div>                       |

**Still open**

- The image’s earliest source and date

Whose perspective is missing?

Whose view is missing from these documents? What would you ask them?

The view that is missing is \_\_\_\_\_. I would ask \_\_\_\_\_.

The facilities office is missing. I would ask how quickly it posts same-day problems, since the page was last updated Monday.

Pacing

Full chapter: 6 min.  
Short on time: skip this page.

Say this

“Two claims are in play: the flood, and how the image was made. Sort each clue under the claim it bears on.” — Model the hand together.

Watch for

**Misconception:** Students put the detector score under the flood claim. **Listen for:** “Low score, so the flood happened.” **Then:** Ask whether the tool looked at the courtyard. It looked only at the file.

Support

- Let students write F for the flood claim or M for how it was made before writing sentences.

Heat check

Low.

## Practice: choose a response

**On your own** Choose what Jordy should do, explain why and fix the two marked phrases. About 5 minutes.

The recap goes out at six. What should Jordy do about the courtyard image?

- ☐ A Post the image with a question: “Is the courtyard flooded?”
- ☐ B Say the image is fake, because the hand looks wrong.
- ☒ C Leave the image out, report what the crew checked and say the flood is not confirmed.

Why I chose it

👉 C. It keeps two questions apart: how the image was made and whether the courtyard flooded. The crew can answer neither yet, and C says so.

## Improve a draft

### A student's first draft

Heads up everyone!! ① The courtyard flooded today so don't go over there. Some people are saying the picture is AI because the hand looks weird but I ran it through a detector and it said 12% AI so it's basically real. My roommate also said her friend saw water near the library earlier, so that pretty much confirms it. Stay safe and ② tell your friends, we don't want anyone getting hurt or ruining their shoes lol. We'll post more if we hear anything else about it.

Rewrite each marked phrase so it says only what the evidence supports.

Rewrite phrase 1

👉 The flood is unconfirmed: we found no first post and no official alert.

Rewrite phrase 2

👉 Please hold off on sharing. Send Jordy any dated photo or the original post.

## 🕒 Pacing

Full chapter: 5 min.

✂ Short on time: 4 min. Vote on the three options and skip the marked draft.

## 💬 Say this

“The recap goes out at six. What should Jordy do about the image?” — Vote before any discussion.

## 👁 Watch for

**Misconception:** Students choose B because the hand looks wrong. **Listen for:** “Look at the fingers, it’s obviously fake.”

**Then:** Ask whether the image could be a real photo from another day. The hand cannot rule that out.

## 📖 Support

- Read the three options aloud before students choose.

## 🔥 Heat check

■□□ Low.

## 👉 Answer key

**A revised version:** About the courtyard flood image going around: we can't confirm it yet. We couldn't find who posted it first, and the campus alerts page shows no active alerts, though its last update was Monday. A detector gave a low score, but detectors make mistakes and can't tell us whether the event happened. So we're not sharing the image as news. If you're on campus now, check the official alert page before changing plans. We'll update here by 6 p.m. Thanks for checking before sharing. If you have a dated photo or an original post, send it to Jordy.

## College

## Your task

**On your own** Read the steps and fill in the planner boxes before you start your draft. About 12 minutes.

Write the verification note the crew posts instead of the image. Then write a memo recommending two changes to the campus facilities alerts page that would help students check rumors.

**Use:** Case documents: the courtyard image and caption, Sami's zoom-in, the secondhand reply, the detector result and the campus facilities alerts page. Real sources: NIST's overview of synthetic content and the News Literacy Project's RumorGuard check, a model verification note.

**You'll make:** Verification note, 50–80 words, plus a memo of 250–350 words

**Time:** 75 minutes

- 1 Fill in the chain chart for the courtyard image: claim, earliest source, date, corroboration.
- 2 Write the verification note, 50 to 80 words, on the Your draft page.
- 3 List what the alerts page could not tell the crew on Wednesday.
- 4 Plan two changes the office that runs the page could make.
- 5 Draft the memo's recommendations on the Your draft page.
- 6 Finish the memo, 250 to 350 words, on lined paper or in the online workspace.



Prefer typing? Scan to open the online workspace.

## Chain chart

🔗 **Claim:** courtyard flooded today. **Earliest source:** not found. **Date:** none on the image; shared 2:48 p.m. **Corroboration:** none.

## Case 20 | Your task | College educator edition

## ⌚ Pacing

Full chapter: 12 min.

✂ Short on time: 12 min.

## 💬 Say this

“Two questions need two different sources. Which one can say whether the courtyard flooded?” — The facilities office, or someone with a dated photo.

## 👁 Watch for

**Misconception:** Participants ask the office to rule on images. **Listen for:** “The office should tell us which pictures are fake.” **Then:** Ask what the office knows about: campus conditions, not how files were made.

## 📄 Support

- Verification-note frame from the workshop: checked, found, still open
- Chain chart: claim, earliest source, date, corroboration
- Glossary: provenance, watermark, content credentials

## 🔗 Stretch

- Separate two questions in the memo, whether the image was generated and whether the courtyard flooded, and say which office or source could answer each.

## 🔥 Heat check

■□□ Low.

## Your task, continued

## What the alerts page could not tell the crew

It showed no alerts at 3:10 p.m. but was last updated Monday at 9:15 a.m., so it could not answer a Wednesday rumor.

## Two questions, and who can answer each

Was it generated? The hand and the 12% score are clues only. Did it flood? Only the office or a dated photo can say.

## Notes

[illegible]

This page continues page 413.

## Standards

**AAC&U VALUE rubric:** Information Literacy VALUE Rubric;  
Critical Thinking VALUE Rubric.

**ACRL Framework:** Information Creation as a Process; Searching as Strategic Exploration.

The Case plan sheet gives each code in plain words.

## OT Answer key

## A strong response:

- The note says what was checked and what is still open, and reaches no verdict the evidence cannot support
- Treats the 12% detector score and the odd hand as reasons to look closer, not as proof
- Notes that the alerts page was last updated Monday at 9:15 a.m., so it cannot settle a claim about Wednesday
- Recommends changes the office that runs the alerts page could make, with evidence from the case
- Represents NIST's point that no single approach settles whether content is synthetic

## Your draft

**On your own** Write your draft in the boxes, using your planner from the page before. About 25 minutes.

Verification note, 50 to 80 words

🔗 About the courtyard flood image going around: we can't confirm it yet. We couldn't find who posted it first. The campus alerts page shows no active alerts, but its last update was Monday. We're not sharing the image as news. Check the official alerts page before you change plans. If you have a dated photo or the original post, send it to Jordy.

Memo: the two recommendations

🔗 To the office that runs the campus facilities alerts page. On Wednesday at 2:48 p.m., an image captioned "Courtyard flooded today, stay away" spread in a student group chat. When students checked your alerts page at 3:10 p.m., it showed no active alerts. Its last update was Monday at 9:15 a.m. Students could not tell whether the page was current, so it could not settle the rumor. First, we recommend showing when the page was last checked, even when nothing has changed. Then an empty page would count as evidence. Second, we recommend a line that answers a spreading rumor directly, such as whether a reported flood has been confirmed. We are not asking the office to judge whether images were generated. NIST notes that no single approach settles that question. We are asking for faster answers about what happened on campus.

## 🕒 Pacing

Full chapter: 25 min.

✂ Short on time: 25 min.

## 💬 Say this

"Would the office adopt your recommendation tomorrow? What would it need?" — Ask for evidence from the case behind each recommendation.

## 👁 Watch for

**Misconception:** The memo blames the office. **Listen for:** "Your page never tells us anything." **Then:** Ask for a recommendation the office could act on, with evidence from Wednesday.

## 🔥 Heat check

■□□ Low.

## 🔗 Answer key

**What to notice in the sample:**

1. Uses the case's evidence about the page.
2. A change the office could make.
3. Separates how an image was made from what happened.
4. Represents NIST's point accurately.

## Check your work

**On your own** Answer the Check your work questions, mark your level in each rubric row and write one change you made. About 8 minutes.

- Does your note say what was checked and what is still open? ☒ Yes ☐ No
- Do you treat the 12% score and the odd hand as clues, not proof? ☒ Yes ☐ No
- Does your memo note the Monday 9:15 a.m. update? ☒ Yes ☐ No
- Could the office make both changes you recommend? ☒ Yes ☐ No

### How your work is scored

Mark one box in each row.

| Skill                         | Beginning                                                     | Developing                                                          | Proficient                                                                     | Advanced                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Evidence</b>               | <input type="checkbox"/> Treats the image as proof.           | <input type="checkbox"/> Cites a detector or a detail as a verdict. | <input type="checkbox"/> Checks the earliest source and an independent record. | <input type="checkbox"/> Checks several sources and names what each can't show.                |
| <b>Reasoning</b>              | <input type="checkbox"/> Declares real or fake with no basis. | <input type="checkbox"/> Hedges without explaining why.             | <input type="checkbox"/> Matches confidence to evidence.                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Separates authenticity of the file from truth of the event.           |
| <b>Audience &amp; purpose</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Urges spreading.                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Warns without guidance.                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Gives followers a safe next step.                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Gives a next step, a follow-up time and a way to contribute evidence. |

### Pacing

Full chapter: 8 min.

 Short on time: 5 min. Participants answer the Check your work questions only.

### Say this

“Mark your level honestly. Then make one change and say why.” — Ask for one removed verdict or one added source.

### Watch for

**Misconception:** Revisions only soften words. **Listen for:** “I changed fake to probably fake.” **Then:** Point to the Revision row. Replace the verdict with what was checked.

### Heat check

 Low.

### Answer key

**How to assess:** Score with the case rubric. Add checks that the note reaches no unsupported verdict and that the memo describes NIST's limits accurately.

### Proficient looks like:

- **Evidence:** Checks the earliest source and an independent record.
- **Reasoning:** Matches confidence to evidence.
- **Audience & purpose:** Gives followers a safe next step.
- **Revision:** Replaces the verdict with a verification note.

| Skill    | Beginning                           | Developing                                   | Proficient                                                              | Advanced                                                                              |
|----------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Revision | <input type="checkbox"/> No change. | <input type="checkbox"/> Softens words only. | <input type="checkbox"/> Replaces the verdict with a verification note. | <input type="checkbox"/> Explains how each change protects followers and credibility. |

I changed \_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_.

 I cut a recommendation that the office run a detector on every image, because detection has limits and the office tracks campus conditions.

## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

This page continues page 416. The notes for both pages are on the sheet for page 416.

## Questions to discuss

**On your own** Write a short answer to each question, then complete the sentence frames. About 10 minutes.

**1** What would you need beyond the image to support the caption's claim?

➤ Provenance for the file and corroboration for the event. The two answer different questions, and the caption needs both.

**2** Do you agree with Jordy's choice to leave the image out of the recap, and why?

➤ Mostly yes. Leaving it out avoids spreading an unverified claim. The cost is that followers cannot see what the crew is talking about.

**3** Who could be harmed if the crew called a real photo fake?

➤ The person who took it and anyone who ignored a real hazard. A false debunk also costs the crew trust it needs for its next correction.

**4** The alerts page shows nothing new since Monday. Does that prove the courtyard did not flood?

➤ No. An empty alerts page is weak evidence when the page may not report same-day problems. It lowers confidence in the claim without disproving it.

## My take

My claim: \_\_\_\_.

➤ The crew should publish what it checked, say the flood is unconfirmed and invite dated evidence.

## ⌚ Pacing

Full chapter: 10 min.

✂ Short on time: 7 min. Use question 3 as a closing question.

## 💬 Say this

"Answer with a detail from a document, not a feeling about the image." — Ask for one answer per question.

## ➤ Stretch

- Compare the crew's note with the RumorGuard check on the Helene image. What does each say is known and unknown?
- Going further: List every place the crew could look for the first post of the courtyard image. For each one, write what it could prove and what it could not.
- Going further: Write two captions that say the flood is not confirmed. Which one makes the image feel more trustworthy than it is? Name who could be hurt if the crew gets this wrong.
- Going further: Write two short notices that tell followers the flood is not confirmed. Ask two readers what each notice lets them conclude. Rewrite any line that made them more certain than the evidence allows.
- Going further: Before you repost an image as news, find where it first appeared. Check an official or independent source for the event. If you cannot confirm it, say so or do not share it. If you help run a club account, suggest a "check before posting" rule.
- Compare how two news organizations describe their image-verification process
- Research what content credentials record and what they cannot show

## My take, continued

The best evidence is \_\_\_\_, because \_\_\_\_.

🔗 The alerts page, because it is independent of the chat, even though it may be out of date.

Someone who disagrees might say \_\_\_\_.

🔗 Treating the image as unverified could leave people walking into a real flood.

The limit of the evidence is \_\_\_\_.

🔗 No source in the case can say how the image was made or when it was taken.

I would change my mind if \_\_\_\_.

🔗 The original poster shared the file with its date and place.

### Notes

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This page continues page 418.

### 🔗 Heat check

■ ■ □ **Question 3: Medium.** Students may bring up real disaster images or people they know who lived through a disaster.

**Cool-down:** Keep to the courtyard case. Do not show or search for images of real people in distress.

## Talk about this case at home

### Case 20: Can the crew post this image as true?

In this case, a realistic image in a group chat claims that a campus courtyard flooded today. Your student checked where the image came from and wrote a short note that says what is known and what is not.

#### Questions to talk about

- 1 What would you check before you share a picture of breaking news?
- 2 Where does your town or school post official alerts?
- 3 Why can saying you are not sure yet be better than guessing?

Nobody needs to share personal stories or private information to talk about this case.



See the case online.

## Case 20 | Talk about this case at home | College educator edition

### ⌚ Pacing

At home: this page takes no class time.

### 💬 Say this

“Read this page at home with someone you trust.” —  
Nobody needs to share a personal story to complete it.