

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:

- find a date and a time in a short document
- tell what a picture shows from what a caption says
- write a complete sentence that answers a question

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- separate what an image shows from what its caption claims
- name a better source to check

Objectives, continued

- use “unverified” correctly when proof is missing
- write 2 or 3 sentences that do not accuse the poster

Materials

- This chapter, one copy per student
- Evidence A and D on half-pages, one set per pair
- An image-check card: claim, who posted first, date, other proof

The task in this edition

Task: With a partner, fill an image-check card and write two sentences telling friends whether to trust the courtyard picture.

Students make: Completed card plus 2—3 sentences

Pacing

Opener (page 340): 5 min. Short on time: 4 min. Read What happened aloud and go straight to the key terms.

Key terms (pages 341 and 342): 6 min. Short on time: 3 min. Read the key terms aloud. Skip Who is involved.

Look at the evidence (pages 345 and 346): 10 min. Short on time: 8 min. Read Evidence A and D aloud. Students fill in only the What it shows boxes.

Pacing, continued

Key idea (pages 347 and 348): 6 min. Short on time: 2 min. Read the first paragraph of the key idea aloud. Skip the code of ethics.

Sort the evidence (page 349): 6 min. Short on time: skip.

Practice (page 350): 6 min. Short on time: 4 min. Vote on the three options and skip the marked draft.

Your task (pages 351 and 352): 15 min. Short on time: 15 min.

Check your work (pages 353 and 354): 5 min. Short on time: 3 min. Students answer the Check your work questions only.

Questions to discuss (pages 355 and 356): 8 min. Short on time: 6 min. Use question 4 as an exit ticket.

Talk about this case at home (page 357): at home.

Periods: full chapter 67 minutes; one period 45 minutes.

Standards

RI.6.1 Use evidence from the text to support what it says directly and what you can infer from it.

W.6.2 Write an informative text that explains a topic by choosing, organizing and analyzing relevant information.

Case 20 plan, continued

Standards, continued

- W.6.5** With help from peers and adults, strengthen writing by planning, revising, editing or rewriting.
- SL.6.1.c** Ask and answer specific questions with details that add to the discussion.
- SL.6.1.d** Review the main ideas of a discussion and show you understand other views by reflecting and paraphrasing.
- RI.7.1** Use several pieces of evidence from the text to support what it says directly and what you can infer.
- W.7.2** Write an informative text that explains a topic by choosing, organizing and analyzing relevant information.
- W.7.5** With help from peers and adults, strengthen writing by planning and revising, focusing on purpose and audience.
- SL.7.1.c** Ask questions that draw out more detail, and respond with relevant ideas that bring the discussion back on topic.
- SL.7.1.d** Take in new information from others and change your view when the evidence calls for it.
- RI.8.1** Use the evidence that most strongly supports your analysis of what a text says and implies.
- W.8.2** Write an informative text that explains a topic by choosing, organizing and analyzing relevant information.

Standards, continued

- W.8.5** With help from peers and adults, strengthen writing by planning and revising, focusing on purpose and audience.
- SL.8.1.c** Ask questions that connect several speakers’ ideas, and respond with relevant evidence and observations.
- SL.8.1.d** Take in new information from others and qualify or defend your view based on the evidence.
- D3.1.6-8** Gather information from several sources, using origin, authority, structure, context and corroboration to choose them. In this case: Students choose sources by origin and authority, like the campus facilities page.

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 340):** Low
- **Key terms (pages 341 and 342):** Low
- **Look at the evidence (pages 345 and 346):** Low
- **Key idea (pages 347 and 348):** Low

Heat map, continued

- **Sort the evidence (page 349):** Low
- **Practice (page 350):** Low
- **Your task (pages 351 and 352):** Low
- **Check your work (pages 353 and 354):** 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
- 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

Case 20 plan, continued

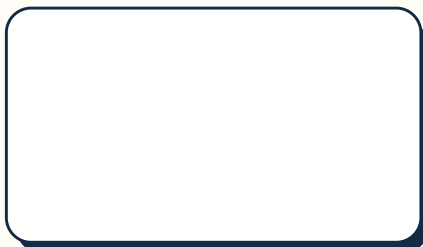
Sources, continued

- 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 5 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: 5 min.

✂ Short on time: 4 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 6 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: 6 min.

✂ Short on time: 3 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?

I think the courtyard ___ because ___.

→ I think the courtyard flooded because the picture shows water everywhere.

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 341. The notes for both pages are on the sheet for page 341.

Reading passage

The flood nobody can confirm

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: An image with no source

It is Wednesday at 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 the 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 zooms in on a hand in the picture. The fingers seem to merge at the knuckles. Someone runs the image through a free online detector. It says “12% likely AI-generated.” Someone else says their 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.

This is the last case in the casebook, and it uses almost every skill you have learned. Your role is to write the verification note Jordy posts at six.

Stop and think. Why does Sami care more about who posted the image first than about the hand?

⌚ Pacing

Reading: about 5 min (489 words). Short on time: read it aloud together, pausing at each Stop and think.

❓ Stop and think

1. **After “The story: An image with no source”:** Why does Sami care more about who posted the image first than about the hand?
2. **After “Where did it come from?”:** Why is the alerts page not enough to prove there was no flood?
3. **After “Real fake images”:** Why is a verification note better than posting the image with a question mark?

Where did it come from?

In Case 1, a real clip in a group chat seemed to cancel a screening. You learned to find the original source. That is the first move here too. **Provenance** is information about where an image or a document came from and how it has been handled. This image has no link, no date and no named poster, so its provenance is unknown.

The caption makes a **claim**, a statement that something is true that you can check with evidence. The hand is a clue, not proof. The detector score is a clue, not proof. As Sami asks, “Twelve percent of what?” And a roommate’s friend is not a source. Near the library is not the courtyard, either.

Corroboration is support for a claim from an independent source. A campus alert would count. So would someone’s dated photo of the courtyard. In Case 9, you learned to check an official source. The alerts page is official, but it has not been updated since Monday, so it cannot prove there was no flood.

Should Jordy post the image with a question mark? No. “A question mark still spreads the picture,” Jordy says. Instead, Jordy writes a **verification note**, a short record of what you checked, what you found and what is still unknown. It works like the **holding statement** from Case 1: it says what is known, what is being checked and when people will hear more. If better evidence appears, the crew will post an update. In Case 3, you learned that a **correction** is a public statement that replaces wrong information with accurate information. If the note turns out to be wrong, the crew will post one where people saw it.

❓ **Stop and think.** Why is the alerts page not enough to prove there was no flood?

Real fake images

After Hurricane Helene in October 2024, an image of a crying girl holding a puppy in a rescue boat spread fast. Fact-checkers found no original photographer or news source. A digital-forensics expert pointed to details that did not hold together (UC Berkeley School of Information, October 4, 2024).

❓ **Stop and think.** Why is a verification note better than posting the image with a question mark?

Sources

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

Hany Farid breaks down the viral Helene image

This page continues page 343. The notes for both pages are on the sheet for page 343.

Look at the evidence

On your own Read each document and write what it shows and what it leaves out. About 10 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

Someone says the courtyard flooded today, and the picture shows water.

One question I still have

Who posted this picture first, and when?

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

On Wednesday at 3:10 p.m., the page had no alert about the courtyard.

One question I still have

Would this page show a flood on the same day?

Pacing

Full chapter: 10 min.

✂ Short on time: 8 min. Read Evidence A and D aloud. Students fill in only the What it shows boxes.

Say this

"Read the caption, then the alerts page. Do they agree?" — The page shows no alert, but it was last updated Monday.

"What would you need to know to trust the picture?" — List answers: who posted it first, when, another 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 aloud before students write.
- Give Evidence A and D on half-pages with the key lines 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

What is still missing from the evidence?

○ We don't know who posted the picture first, or if anyone has a dated photo of water in the courtyard.

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 a vertical margin line on the left side, creating a narrow left margin. The paper has rounded corners on the right side and a straight edge on the left. The overall appearance is that of a clean, unused piece of stationery or notebook paper.

This page continues page 345. The notes for both pages are on the sheet for page 345.

Key idea: provenance

On your own Read the key idea and the code of ethics, then answer the question in the box. About 6 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

The note should say we don't know ____.

➡ The note should say we don't know if the courtyard flooded today, because the page has not changed since Monday.

⌚ Pacing

Full chapter: 6 min.

✂ Short on time: 2 min. Read the first paragraph of the key idea aloud. Skip the code of ethics.

💬 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 347. The notes for both pages are on the sheet for page 347.

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

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 person who posted the picture first is missing. I would ask where and when they got it.

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 6 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. The crew does not know if the flood is real. So it should say what it checked and leave the picture out.

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

➤ We can't confirm that the courtyard flooded today.

Rewrite phrase 2

➤ Please don't share the picture until we know more.

⌚ Pacing

Full chapter: 6 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.

Grades 6—8

Your task

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

With a partner, fill an image-check card and write two sentences telling friends whether to trust the courtyard picture.

Use: The image description, caption and campus facilities page only.

You'll make: Completed card plus 2—3 sentences

Time: 45 minutes

- 1 Read the caption in Evidence A. Write what it says happened, and when.
- 2 Write who posted the picture first and when. Write “unknown” if you cannot find out.
- 3 Check the alerts page in Evidence D. Write what it says about a flood.
- 4 Decide with your partner: is the claim confirmed, false or unverified?
- 5 Write 2 or 3 sentences in the Your draft box that tell friends whether to trust the picture.
- 6 Check that your sentences do not blame the person who posted it.

Show it your way

Write it: Write 2—3 sentences with the frame “The picture shows __. It doesn’t show __.”

Say it: Tell a partner in 30 seconds whether you would share the picture and which proof you would want first.

Show it: Draw the image-check card as a four-box chart and circle the box that is still empty.



Prefer typing? Scan to open the online workspace.

Pacing

Full chapter: 15 min.

✂ Short on time: 15 min.

Say this

“Fill the card first. Which box is still empty?” — Who posted it first.

Watch for

Misconception: Notes call the image fake. **Listen for:** “It’s fake, ignore it.” **Then:** Ask which evidence proves it fake. None does. Write “not confirmed” instead.

Support

- Image-check card: claim, who posted first, date, other proof
- Frames: “The picture shows __. It doesn’t show __.”
- Vocabulary cards: source, evidence, unverified
- Talk before writing

Stretch

- Add one other piece of evidence that would change your mind.

Heat check

■□□ Low.

Your task, continued

The claim

🔍 The courtyard flooded today.

Who posted it first

🔍 Unknown. No link and no name.

Date on the image

🔍 None. It came into the chat at 2:48 p.m.

Other proof

🔍 The alerts page shows no flood alert.

Confirmed, false or unverified?

🔍 Unverified

Your draft

The picture shows _____. It doesn't show _____.

🔍 The picture shows water in a courtyard. It doesn't show who took it or when. The campus alerts page has no flood alert, so the flood is unverified. Please don't share it yet.

This page continues page 351.

📋 Standards

Common Core, grade 6: RI.6.1; W.6.2; W.6.5; SL.6.1.c; SL.6.1.d.

Common Core, grade 7: RI.7.1; W.7.2; W.7.5; SL.7.1.c; SL.7.1.d.

Common Core, grade 8: RI.8.1; W.8.2; W.8.5; SL.8.1.c; SL.8.1.d.

C3 Framework: D3.1.6–8.

The Case plan sheet gives each code in plain words.

🔍 Answer key

A strong response:

- Separates what the image shows from what it claims
- Names a better source to check
- Uses “unverified” correctly
- Doesn't accuse the poster

What to notice in the sample:

1. Separates what the image shows from what it claims.
2. Names a better source to check.
3. Uses the word unverified correctly.

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 5 minutes.

Do your sentences say what the picture shows and what it doesn't show?	☒ Yes	☐ No
Do they name a better source to check?	☒ Yes	☐ No
Do they use the word “unverified” correctly?	☒ Yes	☐ No
Do they avoid blaming the person who posted it?	☒ Yes	☐ No

How your work is scored

Mark one box in each row.

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

Pacing

Full chapter: 5 min.

 Short on time: 3 min. Students 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: The educator checks the card and sentences against the four success criteria, listening in partner talk for the difference between “unverified” and “fake.”

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	☐ No change.	☐ Softens words only.	☐ Replaces the verdict with a verification note.	☐ Explains how each change protects followers and credibility.

I changed ___ because ____.

🔍 I changed “it’s fake” to “unverified” because we don’t know where the picture came from.

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 353. The notes for both pages are on the sheet for page 353.

Questions to discuss

On your own Write a short answer to each question, then complete the sentence frames. About 8 minutes.

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

➤ Who posted it first and when, and another proof, like a campus alert or a photo with a date.

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

➤ Yes. If the crew posts the picture, people might believe it even if the note says it is not confirmed.

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

➤ No. The page might not be updated yet. It shows no alert, but that is not proof.

My take

I think the crew should ___ because ____.

➤ I think the crew should say the flood is not confirmed because nobody knows who posted the picture.

The evidence that changed my first guess is ____.

➤ The evidence that changed my first guess is the alerts page. It shows no flood alert.

⌚ Pacing

Full chapter: 8 min.

✂ Short on time: 6 min. Use question 4 as an exit ticket.

💬 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

One question I still have is ___.

🔑 One question I still have is who took the picture first.

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.

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Heat check

Question 1: Low.

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 | Grades 6—8 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.