

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:

- summarize what a source shows and what it leaves out
- tell a clue from proof
- write a short message for a named audience

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- report what was checked in a public verification note
- avoid a verdict the evidence cannot support
- give followers a next step and a time for the next update

Objectives, continued

- explain in a rationale why “can’t confirm” is more accurate than “fake”

Materials

- This chapter, one copy per student
- Evidence A, B, C and D and the NIST summary in the key idea
- A note template: checked, found, still open

The task in this edition

Task: Write the verification note Jordy posts instead of the image, plus a one-paragraph explanation of your choices.

Students make: Note (50—80 words) plus 120-word rationale

Pacing

Opener (page 379): 4 min. Short on time: 3 min. Read the summary line and the first paragraph aloud.

Key terms (pages 380 and 381): 5 min. Short on time: skip. Define provenance and corroboration aloud in one minute.

Look at the evidence (page 385): 7 min. Short on time: 6 min. Students fill in only the What it shows boxes for Evidence A and B.

Look at the evidence (page 386): 6 min. Short on time: 5 min. Students fill in only the What it leaves out boxes for Evidence C and D.

Pacing, continued

Key idea (pages 387 and 388): 7 min. Short on time: 3 min. Read the NIST paragraph aloud. Skip the code of ethics.

Sort the evidence (page 389): 6 min. Short on time: skip.

Practice (page 390): 6 min. Short on time: 4 min. Vote on the three options and skip the marked draft.

Your task (pages 391 and 392): 6 min. Short on time: 5 min. Students fill in the claim and the checks only.

Your draft (page 393): 18 min. Short on time: 16 min. Students write the note in class and finish the rationale at home.

Check your work (pages 394 and 395): 6 min. Short on time: 4 min. Students answer the Check your work questions only.

Questions to discuss (pages 396 and 397): 8 min. Short on time: 4 min. Use question 4 as an exit ticket.

Talk about this case at home (page 398): at home.

Periods: full chapter 79 minutes; one period 50 minutes.

Standards

RI.9-10.1 Support an analysis with solid, complete evidence from the text, both for what it states and for what it implies.

Case 20 plan, continued

Standards, continued

W.9-10.2 Write an explanatory text that presents complex ideas and information clearly and accurately.

W.9-10.5 Strengthen writing by planning, revising, editing or rewriting, focusing on what matters most for the purpose and audience.

SL.9-10.1.c Move a discussion forward with questions that connect it to larger ideas, bring others in and test ideas and conclusions.

SL.9-10.1.d Respond to different views, sum up where people agree and disagree, and adjust your view when the evidence calls for it.

D3.2.9-12 Judge a source’s credibility by looking at how experts value it. In this case: Students evaluate how credible a detector result is and what it measures.

D3.3.9-12 Draw evidence from several sources to find inconsistencies, then revise or strengthen claims. In this case: Students look for inconsistencies across the image, caption and independent records.

D4.3.9-12 Present arguments and explanations to audiences outside the classroom in print, oral or digital form. In this case: Students adapt a verification note for the crew’s followers.

Codes of ethics

- **RTDNA Code of Ethics:** Truth and accuracy above all

Codes of ethics, continued

- **SPJ Code of Ethics:** Seek Truth and Report It
- **PRSA Code of Ethics:** Disclosure of Information

Heat map

- **Opener (page 379):** Low
- **Key terms (pages 380 and 381):** Low
- **Look at the evidence (page 385):** Low
- **Look at the evidence (page 386):** Low
- **Key idea (pages 387 and 388):** Low
- **Sort the evidence (page 389):** Low
- **Practice (page 390):** Low
- **Your task (pages 391 and 392):** Low
- **Your draft (page 393):** Low
- **Check your work (pages 394 and 395):** 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

Try it at your school, continued

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.

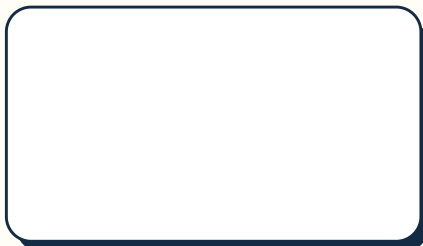
Sources

- 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 the summary line and the first paragraph aloud.

💬 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 5 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: 5 min.

✂ Short on time: skip this page. Skip this page. Define provenance and corroboration aloud in one minute.

💬 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 it flooded, because the image looks like a real photo.

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 380. The notes for both pages are on the sheet for page 380.

Reading passage

Checked, found, still unknown

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 when or where

At 2:48 p.m. on a Wednesday, an image lands in the group chat with no link, no date and no name attached. It looks like a photo of the campus courtyard, with water covering the paving and the benches. The caption is urgent: “Courtyard flooded today, stay away.” By 3:10, it has been circulating for twenty minutes.

Jordy has a deadline. The crew’s recap goes out at six, and the first question in the chat is whether the courtyard picture goes in. The evidence piles up quickly, and none of it settles anything. Sami, who studies design and photographs things most people walk past, zooms in on a hand in the foreground. The fingers seem to merge at the knuckles. Someone runs the image through a free detector and gets “12% likely AI-generated.” A reply says the writer’s roommate’s friend saw water near the library. Jordy checks the campus facilities alerts page. It lists no active alerts, but it has not been updated since Monday at 9:15 a.m.

Sami redirects the conversation. Everyone is zooming in on the hand, and she did too. But she still does not know who posted the image. When she takes a photo, it has a when and a where. This one has neither.

Your role is to write the verification note Jordy posts at six. It is the final skill in the casebook, and it combines many of the others.

⌚ Pacing

Reading: about 5 min (646 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 when or where”:** Sami shifts the question from how the image looks to where it came from. Why is that the stronger question?
2. **After “From clues to a verification note”:** The alerts page shows nothing new since Monday. Does that prove the courtyard did not flood?
3. **After “How real newsrooms handle it”:** Do you agree with Jordy’s choice to leave the image out of the recap? Why or why not?

❓ **Stop and think.** Sami shifts the question from how the image looks to where it came from. Why is that the stronger question?

From clues to a verification note

Start where Case 1 started, with the original source. **Provenance** is information about where an image or a document came from and how it has been handled. This image arrived without any, so its provenance is unknown.

The caption makes a **claim**, the Case 1 term for a statement that something is true that you can check with evidence. Look at each clue honestly. The hand is a reason to look closer, not proof of anything. A natural-looking hand would not prove an image is real, either. The detector score is a number without context. Sami asks, twelve percent of what? These tools can be wrong in both directions, and none of them can say whether the courtyard flooded today. The secondhand report fails as a source twice. It is a roommate's friend, and it is about the library, not the courtyard. Jordy would welcome it if that person had a photo with a time on it.

Corroboration is support for a claim from an independent source. The best candidates are an official alert or a dated photo from someone on site. Case 9 taught you to check the official source for your area, and the alerts page is that source. Its silence is weak evidence, because it has not been updated since Monday.

Jordy considers posting the image with a question mark and rejects it, because a question mark still spreads the picture. Instead, the recap will carry a **verification note**, a short record of what you checked, what you found and what is still unknown. It shares its logic with Case 1's **holding statement**, which says what is known, what is still being checked and when people will hear more. Case 3 adds the last piece. If new evidence changes the answer, a **correction** goes where people saw the original note.

❓ **Stop and think.** The alerts page shows nothing new since Monday. Does that prove the courtyard did not flood?

How real newsrooms handle it

After Hurricane Helene in October 2024, an image of a crying girl clutching a puppy in a rescue boat spread widely. Fact-checkers found no original photographer or news source. Digital-forensics researcher Hany Farid pointed to details that did not hold together, like a boat floor with impossible perspective (UC Berkeley School of Information, October 4, 2024). In 2023, fake images of an explosion near the Pentagon spread quickly and briefly moved markets before officials confirmed nothing had happened (NPR, May 22, 2023).

Looking closely is not enough. Research found that people could not reliably tell AI-generated faces from real ones (Nightingale and Farid, PNAS, February 14, 2022).

This page continues page 382. The notes for both pages are on the sheet for page 382.

❓ **Stop and think.** Do you agree with Jordy's choice to leave the image out of the recap? Why or why not?

Sources

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

Hany Farid breaks down the viral Helene image

Real source | NPR | May 22, 2023

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

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

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

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 top-left corner of the paper is rounded. The paper appears to be part of a notebook or binder.

This page continues page 382. The notes for both pages are on the sheet for page 382.

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

Someone claims the courtyard flooded today. The image looks like it shows that.

What it leaves out

Who first posted the image, and when and where it was taken.

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

One detail looks wrong: the fingers seem to merge. That is a reason to look closer.

What it leaves out

Whether the image was generated, edited or is a real photo from another day.

Case 20 | Look at the evidence

| Grades 9–10 educator edition

⌚ Pacing

Full chapter: 7 min.

✂ Short on time: 6 min. Students fill in only the What it shows boxes for Evidence A and B.

💬 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 free tool gave the image a low score, 12%, for being generated.

What it leaves out

➤ How often this tool is wrong, and whether the courtyard flooded today.

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

➤ At 3:10 p.m. on Wednesday, the page listed no alert about the courtyard.

What it leaves out

➤ How quickly the page would report a flood on the same day.

What is still missing from the evidence?

➤ Who first posted the image and when, and whether it shows this courtyard today. Also, whether anyone has a dated photo of water there.

Case 20 | Look at the evidence

| Grades 9–10 educator edition

⌚ Pacing

Full chapter: 6 min.

✂ Short on time: 5 min. Students fill in only the What it leaves out boxes for Evidence C and D.

💬 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 7 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 ___ is still unknown.

➡ The note should say whether the courtyard flooded today is still unknown. The alerts page has not been updated since Monday.

⌚ Pacing

Full chapter: 7 min.

✂ Short on time: 3 min. Read the NIST paragraph 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.

Real source | NPR | May 22, 2023

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

Real source | CNN | May 22, 2023

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

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.

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 facilities office is missing. I would ask whether it has any report of water in the courtyard today.

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. A still spreads the picture, and B treats a clue as proof. C reports only what the evidence supports.**

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 the courtyard flooded today. No independent record shows it yet.**

Rewrite phrase 2

➤ **Check the official alerts page before you share or change plans.**

⌚ 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 9–10

Your task

On your own Read the steps and fill in the planner boxes before you start your draft. About 6 minutes.

Write the verification note Jordy posts instead of the image, plus a one-paragraph explanation of your choices.

Use: All case materials and the NIST summary.

You'll make: Note (50–80 words) plus 120-word rationale

Time: 50 minutes

- 1 Write the caption's claim in one sentence in the planner.
- 2 List what the crew checked, using Evidence A to D.
- 3 Mark each piece of evidence as supporting, challenging or leaving open the flood claim.
- 4 Write a verification note of 50 to 80 words on the Your draft page.
- 5 Say what the crew checked, what it found, what is still unknown and when it will update.
- 6 Explain your choices in a rationale of about 120 words.



Prefer typing? Scan to open the online workspace.

The caption's claim

➤ The campus courtyard flooded today, so people should stay away.

What the crew checked, and what each check shows

➤ First post: not found, no link or date. Hand: odd, a clue only. Detector: 12%, error rates unknown. Alerts page: no alerts, last updated Monday.

Case 20 | Your task | Grades 9–10 educator edition

⌚ Pacing

Full chapter: 6 min.

✂ Short on time: 5 min. Students fill in the claim and the checks only.

💬 Say this

“List every check the crew made. Next to each one, write what it can and cannot show.” — Model the detector row together.

👁 Watch for

Misconception: Students mix two questions: how the image was made and whether the flood happened. **Listen for:** “If it’s a real photo, the flood happened.” **Then:** Ask: real from when, and from where? A real photo can be from another day.

📁 Support

- Note template: checked, found, open
- Model note from another topic
- Note template: We checked _____. We found _____. Still open: _____. Next update: _____.

➦ Stretch

- Explain why “we can’t confirm” is more accurate than “fake.”

🔥 Heat check

■□□ Low.

📋 Standards

Common Core: RI.9-10.1; W.9-10.2; W.9-10.5; SL.9-10.1.c; SL.9-10.1.d.

C3 Framework: D3.2.9-12; D3.3.9-12; D4.3.9-12.

The Case plan sheet gives each code in plain words.

Image: supports. Alerts page: challenges, weakly. Hand and score: bear on how it was made, not the flood.

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.

Your draft

On your own Write your draft in the boxes, using your planner from the page before. About 18 minutes.

Verification note, 50 to 80 words

We've seen _____. We checked _____.

🔍 We've seen 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. So we're not sharing the image as news. Check the official alerts page before you change plans. We'll update here by 6 p.m.

Rationale, about 120 words

I chose ____ because _____.

🔍 I wrote "we can't confirm it yet" instead of calling the image fake. The hand looks odd, but an odd detail is only a reason to look closer. The image could be generated, edited or a real photo from another day. The detector's 12% score is also a clue with error rates, and it says nothing about the flood. I named the alerts page and its Monday update so followers can check it themselves. I left the image out because a question mark still spreads the picture. I gave a time for the next update so people know when to look again.

⌚ Pacing

Full chapter: 18 min.

✂ Short on time: 16 min. Students write the note in class and finish the rationale at home.

💬 Say this

"Read your note as a follower who is on campus right now. Do you know what to do?" — Partners read each other's note aloud.

👁 Watch for

Misconception: The rationale repeats the note instead of explaining choices. **Listen for:** "I said we checked the alerts page." **Then:** Ask why that choice matters to a follower.

🔥 Heat check

■□□ Low.

🔑 Answer key

What to notice in the sample:

1. States the level of confidence the evidence supports.
2. Names what the source cannot show.
3. Gives followers a time to check back.
4. Explains why "can't confirm" is more accurate than "fake."

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 6 minutes.

Does your note say what the crew checked?	☒ Yes ☐ No
Does it avoid a verdict the evidence cannot support?	☒ Yes ☐ No
Does it give followers a next step?	☒ Yes ☐ No
Does your rationale explain your hedging choices?	☒ 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: 6 min.

 Short on time: 4 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 note is scored with the case rubric, and the rationale is checked for an explanation of why “can’t confirm” is more accurate than “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.

How your work is scored, continued

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.

One change I made after feedback

I changed ___ because ___.

I changed “the picture is fake” to “we can’t confirm the flood,” because it could be a real photo from another day or place.

Notes

This page continues page 394. The notes for both pages are on the sheet for page 394.

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?

➤ The earliest post with a date, and corroboration from an independent source, like a campus alert.

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

➤ Yes. A question mark still spreads the picture, and many people see the image and skip the words.

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

➤ The person who took it, and anyone who needed the warning. If the courtyard really flooded, people could walk into water.

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

➤ No. The page was last updated Monday, so it might not show a flood from Wednesday.

My take

My claim: ____.

➤ The recap should post a verification note and leave the image out.

Case 20 | Questions to discuss | Grades 9–10 educator edition

⌚ Pacing

Full chapter: 8 min.

✂ Short on time: 4 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

The best evidence is ____, because ____.

• The alerts page, because it is an official source and it shows no courtyard alert.

Someone who disagrees might say ____.

- People need a fast warning in case the flood is real.

I would change my mind if ____.

Someone shared a dated photo of water in the courtyard today.

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 396.

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 | Grades 9–10 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.