Case 1: Is the screening canceled?

A cropped clip in the group chat seems to cancel the crew's screening, so you check the original documents and write an update.

On your own Read What happened. Underline the sentence that worries the crew. About 5 minutes.

Your role: You're the one who reads the full transcript before Gia posts. **New skill:** Find the original source.

Gia and Mateo read the message about tonight's screening.

What happened

It is Friday afternoon at the Common Room, a shared event space inside a bookshop in Fort Greene, Brooklyn. Mateo, 22, booked the room for tonight's 6 p.m. screening, the crew's first in the neighborhood. He has been moving tables and chairs all afternoon.

Gia, 21, is helping between her class and her shift at a café. Jordy is testing the projector and captions. Sami is on her way from the print shop.

At 4:52 p.m., someone forwards a seven-second clip to the group chat. The clip comes from a meeting about the room. Its caption asks whether the screening is canceled.

Gia wants to warn people before they leave home. Mateo hopes the post is wrong. Gia has about ten minutes before she has to leave for work.

Your question: Is the screening really canceled, and what should the crew tell people?

Key terms

On your own Read each key term and its example. Then write your first guess in the box. About 5 minutes.

Claim A claim is a statement that something is true. You can check a claim with evidence.

En español: afirmación

In this case: The caption "Screening canceled?" is a claim. It ends with a question mark, and no document confirms it.

Context Context is the information around an event or a quote that you need to understand what it means.

En español: contexto

In this case: The full transcript adds the words "through that reader tonight." Those words show that only the broken side door is closing.

Framing Framing is choosing which parts of a situation a message brings forward.

En español: encuadre

In this case: The crop and the caption choose what viewers notice: "removing access," not "through that reader."

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.

En español: comunicado provisional

In this case: Jordy posts: "We're checking the original. Hold your plans for a moment."

Who is involved

Mateo

Booked the room for tonight

"I've been moving these tables all afternoon. Please tell me we didn't cancel this in a group chat."

Gia

Leaving soon for a café shift

"Sami's already on the train from the print shop. "We're figuring it out" doesn't tell her whether to keep coming."

Your first guess

Before you look at the evidence, what do you think is going on?

My first guess is ___, because ___.

Notes

Reading passage

Whose version travels fastest

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 6 minutes.

Words to know

- **Claim**: A claim is a statement that something is true. You can check a claim with evidence.
- **Context**: Context is the information around an event or a quote that you need to understand what it means.
- **Framing**: Framing is choosing which parts of a situation a message brings forward.
- **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.

The story: A real clip with a false caption

By late Friday afternoon, the Common Room is almost ready. The event space, tucked inside a Fort Greene bookshop, has rows of folding chairs that Mateo has been arranging since lunch. Jordy is checking whether the projector's captions are readable from the back row. Gia has about ten minutes before she has to leave for a café shift. Sami, who uses a manual wheelchair and usually enters through the side door, is already on the train from the print shop.

At 4:52 p.m., a seven-second clip reaches the group chat. It comes from a meeting about the room. The coordinator says, "we are removing access," and the clip ends. The forwarded caption supplies the conclusion the video does not: "They're removing access tonight. Screening canceled?"

Nothing about the clip is fabricated. That is what makes it persuasive. The voice is real, the words are real and the meeting happened. Gia's instinct is protective. People are already asking whether to turn around, and she wants to save them a trip. Mateo's instinct is hopeful, and he says plainly that he wants the clip to be fake. Jordy's instinct comes from editing. A sentence that stops at "access" usually has more after it.

Your role in this case is specific. You are the one who reads the full transcript before Gia posts. Every reply the crew sends will be read by people making decisions on the move, so the order of the crew's next three steps matters.

Stop and think. Why can a real clip mislead people more easily than a fake one?

Reading the record against the clip

The caption makes a **claim**, a statement that something is true that can be checked with evidence. Two documents test it. The coordinator's 3:30 p.m. transcript reads: "The side-door reader is broken. We are removing access through that reader tonight. Existing room bookings remain in place. Use the staffed front entrance while we repair it." Mateo's booking email from Tuesday confirms Friday, 6 to 9 p.m., a step-free front entrance and staff at the desk from 5:30.

Set side by side, the documents show that the clip is accurate but incomplete. **Context**, the information around a quote that you need to understand what it means, narrows "removing access" to a single broken reader. The email adds something the transcript does not: the front entrance is step-free. It also leaves something out. It was sent before Friday's meeting, so it says nothing about the side door.

The crew's response follows the evidence in order. First, Jordy sends a **holding statement**, a short update that says what is known, what is still being checked and when people will hear more: "We're checking the original. Hold your plans for a moment." Notice what it avoids. It does not repeat the word "canceled," and it does not call the clip fake. Then Gia posts the correction in the same chat where the rumor spread, with the time, the entrance and the original update. Jordy captions it so it can be read without sound. Mateo keeps a link to the full transcript beside the cropped clip.

> **Stop and think.** The holding statement avoids the word "canceled." What might happen if it repeated the word, even to deny it?

Selection, emphasis and who controls the story

Robert Entman's research defines **framing** through two actions: selecting some aspects of a situation and making them more salient (Robert M. Entman, "Framing," 1993). In plain terms, framing is choosing which parts of a situation a message brings forward. The seven-second crop is a frame built by subtraction. It selects "removing access" and removes the qualifier. Analyzing a frame does not require proving anyone's motive. It requires showing what was selected and what was left out.

The pattern reaches far beyond one group chat. When Suzanne Collins announced a new Hunger Games novel, her publisher quoted her on propaganda and "the power of those who control the narrative" (Scholastic, June 6, 2024). In the 2012 film's reaping scene, the Capitol stages an official ceremony, yet it cannot control how the crowd reacts when Katniss volunteers for Prim. In our reading, the scene and the clip raise the same question: whose version does the edit make easiest to see?

Research suggests the defense is teachable. A Stanford study found that most of 3,446 students judged posts by how they looked rather than by who made them (Stanford Graduate School of Education, November 18, 2019).

Selection, emphasis and who controls the story, continued

A district-wide field study in high school government classes found that teaching lateral reading measurably improved how students judged online claims (Wineburg et al., Journal of Educational Psychology, July 2022). News organizations hold themselves to a similar standard. The RTDNA code warns that "trending" or "going viral" may increase urgency, but these "only heighten the need for strict standards of accuracy" (RTDNA Code of Ethics, June 11, 2015). Finding the original source is the first skill in this series, and every later case builds on it.

Stop and think. Entman says a frame works by selection and emphasis. What did the crew's correction select and emphasize?

Sources

Real source | Robert M. Entman | 1993

Framing

Real source | Scholastic | June 6, 2024

Sunrise on the Reaping announcement

Real source | Stanford Graduate School of Education | November 18, 2019

High school students are unprepared to judge the credibility of information on the internet, according to Stanford researchers

Real source | Journal of Educational Psychology (Wineburg et al.) | July 2022

Lateral reading on the open Internet: A district-wide field study in high school government classes

Real source | Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA) | 2015

RTDNA Code of Ethics

Notes

Look at the evidence

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

Evidence A | Group-chat post, Friday 4:52 p.m.

The post

They're removing access tonight. Screening canceled?" A seven-second clip is attached. In it, the coordinator says "we are removing access," and the clip ends there.

Look closely: Which word in the caption goes further than the clip itself?

What it shows

What it leaves out

Evidence B | Coordinator's meeting transcript, Friday 3:30 p.m.

The full update

"The side-door reader is broken. We are removing access through that reader tonight. Existing room bookings remain in place. Use the staffed front entrance while we repair it."

Look closely: Which four words narrow what "access" means? Underline them.

What it shows

What it leaves out

Look at the evidence, continued

Evidence C | **Booking email to Mateo, sent Tuesday**

The booking email

Friday, 6—9 p.m. Screening confirmed. Front entrance: step-free. Staff member at the desk from 5:30 p.m. Contact the coordinator for arrival support.

Look closely: What does this confirm? What does it not say about the side door?

What it shows

What it leaves out

What is still missing from the evidence?

Notes

Key idea: framing

On your own Read the key idea and the code of ethics. Then answer the question in the box. About 12 minutes.

The clip in the group chat is real, but that only tells you the video is authentic. A **claim** is a statement that something is true. You can check a claim with evidence. **Context** is the information around an event or a quote that you need to understand what it means. Here, the clip stops before the rest of the coordinator's sentence, so the clip alone cannot confirm the caption's claim.

Framing is choosing which parts of a situation a message brings forward. Media researcher Robert Entman uses this idea to study what messages select and emphasize. The crop makes "removing access" stand out and hides "through that reader," the words that limit the change to one broken side door. You do not have to prove that anyone meant to mislead people. You only need to show what the edit leaves out.

A **holding statement** is a short update that says what is known, what is still being checked and when people will hear more. It gives people a next step while the crew checks the documents. The correction that follows needs the time, the door and a contact for arrival help. People who are already traveling need those details before they arrive.

Professional standards

Real source | **Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ)**

SPJ Code of Ethics: Seek Truth and Report It

"Verify information before releasing it. Use original sources whenever possible."

In plain words: Journalists who follow the SPJ code check a claim against the original source before they share it.

Question: What does the full meeting transcript say right after the point where the seven-second clip ends?

Your answer

The transcript goes on to say ___, which means ___.

In the news

Real source | CrashCourse (YouTube) | January 22, 2019

Check Yourself with Lateral Reading: Crash Course Navigating Digital Information #3

Shows the move the crew makes: leave the screenshot, open new tabs and check who made it and what other sources say.

Real source | PolitiFact | August 1, 2022

Viral image shows fake story from The Atlantic about Biden

A real fact-check of a fabricated news screenshot: the image looked official, but the outlet never published it.

Notes

Sort the evidence

On your own Compare each piece of evidence with each claim. Write supports, challenges or neither in each box. About 8 minutes.

Draw an arrow from each piece of evidence to the claim it supports or challenges. Which claim is left standing, and which gap still needs a check before you post?

Evidence	**Claim 1** The screening is canceled.	**Claim 2** The screening is on; use the staffed front entrance.
1 The clip: “we are removing access...” ends mid-sentence.		
2 The transcript: access is removed “through that reader,” and existing bookings remain in place.		
3 The booking email: Friday 6—9 p.m., screening confirmed, step-free front entrance.		

Still open

- Can every visitor use the temporary entrance?

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 ___.

Practice: choose a response

On your own Choose the message you would send and explain why. Then fix the two marked lines. About 6 minutes.

The post arrived a few minutes ago, and nobody has checked the original yet. What do you send to the group chat?

- ☐ **A** Cancel your plans before you travel.
- ☐ **B** We're checking the original. Hold your plans for a moment.
- ☐ **C** The post is fake. Ignore it.

Why I chose it

Improve a draft

A student's first draft

Hey everyone, so there was a clip going around that said the screening was canceled but ❶ that is NOT true lol. Someone didn't watch the whole thing and posted it anyway which is kind of annoying. I checked with Mateo and he said the booking is still good. They are just removing access through one door so everything is fine and ❷ you can come like normal. The event is still happening Friday. Bring snacks if you want, Jordy is doing the projector. See you there!! Also if you have questions ask Mateo.

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

Rewrite phrase 1

Rewrite phrase 2

Grades 11—12

Your task

On your own Read the steps. Fill in the planner boxes before you start your draft. About 10 minutes.

Write a 250-word explanatory note for the Common Room's website on how the rumor spread and what the crew will do differently next time.

Use: All three documents plus the Entman framing reading (selection and salience) excerpt.

You'll make: Website note, 220—280 words

Time: 60 minutes

1. Reread Evidence A, B and C. Note the day and time on each one.
2. Fill in the timeline. Put the documents in order and say how you know each time.
3. Reread the key idea. Mark where the crop selects words and where the caption makes one idea stand out.
4. Plan one change to how the crew posts urgent updates. Name what the change would cost.
5. Write a website note of 220 to 280 words on the Your draft page.
6. Keep claims about the poster's motive out of your note.
7. Check your note with the questions on the Check your work page.

Prefer typing? Scan to open the online workspace.

First

Second

Your task, continued

Third

Fourth

Selection and salience in the post

The crop selects ___. The caption makes ___ stand out.

One process change, and its cost

Next time we will ___. The cost is ___.

Notes

Your draft

On your own Write your draft in the boxes. Use your planner from the page before. About 22 minutes.

Your website note, 220 to 280 words

Check your work

On your own Answer the Check your work questions and mark your level in each rubric row. Then write one change you made. About 6 minutes.

Does your note put the events in the right order?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Does it use selection and salience to explain the crop and the caption?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Does it propose one specific change and name its cost?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Did you leave out claims about the poster's motive?	☐ Yes	☐ No

How your work is scored

Mark one box in each row.

Skill	Beginning	Developing	Proficient	Advanced
Evidence	☐ Repeats the screenshot's claim or ignores the documents.	☐ Mentions a source but not the detail that changes the meaning.	☐ Uses the transcript or email to correct the claim accurately.	☐ Uses both documents and names what they still cannot confirm.
Reasoning	☐ Treats the clip as fake or as final.	☐ Corrects the claim but adds a guess about motive.	☐ Explains the difference between an entrance change and a cancellation.	☐ Explains how the crop produced the wrong conclusion and avoids inventing motive.
Audience & purpose	☐ Message would not help someone decide whether to leave.	☐ Gives the verdict but leaves out time or entrance.	☐ Gives time, entrance and a contact.	☐ Anticipates access needs and people who saw only the original post.

How your work is scored, continued

Skill	Beginning	Developing	Proficient	Advanced
Revision	☐ No change after feedback.	☐ Surface edits only.	☐ Adds a missing fact or removes an unsupported claim.	☐ Explains why each edit makes the update more usable.

One change I made after feedback

I changed ___ because ___.

Notes

Questions to discuss

On your own Write a short answer to each question. Then finish My take. About 10 minutes.

1 **The clip is real. How did it lead people to the wrong conclusion?**

2 **Should the crew say why they think the clip was posted? Why or why not?**

3 **Jordy's holding message does not repeat the word "canceled." Why might that matter?**

4 **What rule could the Common Room adopt for urgent updates? What would the rule cost?**

My take

My claim: ___.

My take, continued

The best evidence is ___, because ___.

Someone who disagrees might say ___.

The limit of the evidence is ___.

I would change my mind if ___.

Notes

Talk about this case at home

Case 1: Is the screening canceled?

In this case, a short video clip in a group chat makes a group of friends think their movie night is canceled. Your student compared the clip with the full meeting notes and a booking email, then wrote a message that corrects the mix-up.

Questions to talk about

1. What would you check before you share a screenshot?
2. Where does your school post official updates, such as closings?
3. What makes a correction easy to trust?

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

See the case online.