

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 6 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 6 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.”

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

[illegible]

Reading passage

What the crop left out

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: Ten minutes before Gia's shift

On Friday afternoon, the Common Room smells like coffee and cardboard. The shared event space sits inside a bookshop in Fort Greene, Brooklyn, and tonight it belongs to the crew. Mateo booked it for a 6 p.m. screening, their first in the neighborhood, and he has been dragging folding chairs into rows since lunch. Jordy is running a caption test on the projector. Gia is squeezing in an hour of help between class and a café shift. Sami is on the train from the print shop.

At 4:52 p.m., the group chat lights up. Someone has forwarded a seven-second clip from a meeting about the room. The coordinator says, “we are removing access,” and the video ends. The caption reads, “They’re removing access tonight. Screening canceled?”

The pressure arrives at once. Gia sees people asking whether to turn around, and she wants to protect them from a wasted trip. Mateo admits he wants the clip to be fake. Jordy, who spends a lot of time with edited video, notices that the clip stops in the middle of a sentence. Before anyone answers, Jordy asks for the rest of the recording.

In this case, you are the person who reads the full transcript before Gia posts. That is a small job with large effects, because every guest who sees the chat will act on what the crew says next.

? **Stop and think.** Gia and Mateo both have reasons to want a quick answer. How could each reason push the crew toward a mistake?

Three possible replies, one set of facts

The caption makes a **claim**, a statement that something is true. You can check a claim with evidence. The coordinator’s meeting transcript from 3:30 p.m. is the original source. It says the side-door reader is broken and that access is being removed “through that reader tonight.” It adds that existing room bookings remain in place and that people should use the staffed front entrance. Mateo’s booking email, sent Tuesday, confirms the event for 6 to 9 p.m. It lists a step-free front entrance with staff at the desk from 5:30.

Context is the information around an event or a quote that you need to understand what it means. With context, the clip means something narrow: one door is closed. Without it, the clip seems to cancel the whole night.

Consider the three replies the crew could send. “Cancel your plans” spreads the rumor before anyone checks. “The post is fake” goes too far, because the clip is real. The problem is what it leaves out. The strongest first move is a **holding statement**, a short update that says what is known, what is still being checked and when people will hear more. Jordy posts one: “We’re checking the original. Hold your plans for a moment.” Then Gia corrects the claim in the same chat where it started. She gives the time and the front entrance, which Sami needs because she usually comes in the side way.

? **Stop and think.** Why is “The post is fake” a weaker reply than a holding statement, even though the screening is on?

Framing in the real world

Media researcher Robert Entman described **framing** as a process of selection and emphasis (Robert M. Entman, “Framing,” 1993). Framing is choosing which parts of a situation a message brings forward. A crop is one of the simplest frames. It keeps “removing access” and drops “through that reader.” You do not need to prove intent to point out a frame. You only need to show what the edit leaves out.

Real fact-checkers see the same pattern with screenshots. PolitiFact examined an image that looked like a story from The Atlantic about President Biden. It looked official, but the outlet never published it (PolitiFact, August 1, 2022). PBS NewsHour Classroom teaches students to treat a screenshot as a claim, not proof, and to trace it back to the original post (PBS NewsHour Classroom, November 17, 2022).

Professional codes say the same thing. The Society of Professional Journalists tells reporters to “verify information before releasing it” and to “use original sources whenever possible” (SPJ Code of Ethics, September 6, 2014). The crew’s version of that rule is small and concrete: find the full transcript, then post. Every later case in this series builds on that first skill.

Sources

Framing

Viral image shows fake story from The Atlantic about Biden

Lesson plan: How to spot fake screenshots on social media

SPJ Code of Ethics

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.

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 8 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 ____.

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.



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

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.

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 8 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 **1** 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 **2** 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 9–10

Your task

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

Write a holding statement and a follow-up correction for the same chat, twenty minutes apart.

Use: All three documents: screenshot, full transcript and booking email.

You'll make: Two messages (30–50 words and 60–90 words) plus a two-sentence rationale

Time: 50 minutes

- 1 Reread Evidence A and B. Underline the words the clip cut off.
- 2 Fill in the planner: what you know now and what you are still checking.
- 3 Write Message 1, a holding statement of 30 to 50 words. Say when you will post again.
- 4 Write Message 2, a correction of 60 to 90 words. Give the time, entrance and source.
- 5 Write a rationale of two sentences that explains one word choice.
- 6 Check both messages with the questions on the Check your work page.



Prefer typing? Scan to open the online workspace.

Known now

We know that ____.

Still checking

We are still checking ____.

When you will post again

Your draft

On your own Write your draft in the boxes. Use your planner from the page before. About 20 minutes.

Message 1: holding statement, 30 to 50 words

We saw _____. We're checking _____.

Message 2: correction, 60 to 90 words

Update: the screening is _____.

Rationale, two sentences

I chose ____ because _____.

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 8 minutes.

Does Message 1 say what is being checked and when the next update will come?	☐ Yes ☐ No
Does Message 2 replace the claim with the time, the entrance and a source?	☐ Yes ☐ No
Does your rationale explain one word choice?	☐ Yes ☐ No
Did you leave out guesses about why the clip was posted?	☐ 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.

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.

I changed ___ because ____.

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 are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has rounded corners and a thin black border around the edges.

Questions to discuss

On your own Write a short answer to each question. Then finish My take. About 14 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?

My take

My claim: ____.

The best evidence is ____, because ____.

Someone who disagrees might say ____.

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 are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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.