



EduTrend Contents

P4C · BELIEF AND EVIDENCE · MIDDLE SCHOOL

Can a Photo Lie?

Evidence in a world of edited images

Ages 12–14

Level: Intermediate

50 minutes

Circle and small groups
· up to 30

Activity 04

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 student worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 04 · AT A GLANCE

Can a Photo Lie?

Students look at invented examples: a cropped photo that hides who else was there, a photo taken from a clever angle, an edited image and a real photo with a false caption. They decide what each seems to show and what really happened. They create questions and enquire into whether a photo can lie and how we can check images.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session students can:

- analyse how images mislead;
- distinguish image, caption and context;
- evaluate image evidence;
- apply checking strategies.

KEY WORDS

image · edit · crop · caption ·
context · evidence

CURRICULUM LINKS

Computing: digital media. English:
media literacy. Art: photography.

1**STIMULUS**

Share something to
think about

2**THINK**

Quiet thinking time

3**QUESTION**

Create and choose
a question

4**ENQUIRE**

Reason together

5**BUILD**

Agree, disagree,
add

6**REFLECT**

Last words

Materials (per class)

- Invented image example cards
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

SAFETY

Use prepared examples only. Do not share or
edit photos of real people.

ACTIVITY 04 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–8 min Stimulus	Share the invented image examples with their real stories.	<i>"What did you notice?"</i>
8–20 min Questions	Students create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>"Which question is most interesting to talk about?"</i>
20–44 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other's ideas.	<i>"Can a photo lie?"</i>
44–50 min Last words	Each person says one last thought or passes.	<i>"Has your thinking changed?"</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Explain when a photo is good evidence.

ACTIVITY 04 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Images can mislead through cropping, angles, editing or false captions, even when the photo itself is real.

Checking the source, the date and other reports helps judge whether an image is good evidence.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Photos always show the truth.” They can mislead.
- “Only edited photos mislead.” Captions and cropping can too.
- “You can never trust images.” They can be checked.

Adapting the activity

Support

Use two examples.

Stretch

Create a checklist for checking an image.

WORKSHEET 1

Our questions

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Write questions the stimulus makes you wonder about.

Our questions

Question	Who asked	Votes

WORKSHEET 2

Image check

Analyse.

Image check

Example	What it seems to show	What really happened

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

Is seeing a picture the same as seeing the event? Before the enquiry I thought... Now I think... because...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight students; copy as needed.

Student	Asks a philosophical question	Gives reasons and examples	Listens and builds on others

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Can a Photo Lie? is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Belief and Evidence programme (middle school, level: intermediate). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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