arqiv✳

LAB KIT · GRADES 6–12

Verify It Kit

Check it before you trust it. SIFT cards and 12 scenarios for practicing how to check AI answers, with a key that explains why.

GRADES 6–12 | 20 MINUTES | SCREENS OPTIONAL | ANSWER KEY

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Four SIFT move cards to cut out
- Twelve scenarios in three grade bands
- Four-corners and pairs routines
- Answer key with explanations
- Student evidence log

Free to download, print and teach · arqiv.si/teachers/ai-literacy

The four moves (SIFT)

SIFT was created by Mike Caulfield and builds on lateral-reading research from the Stanford History Education Group (now Digital Inquiry Group).

S · Stop

Pause before you share or use it. Ask: do I know this source?

I · Investigate the source

Who made this? What do other pages say about them? Open a new tab.

F · Find better coverage

What do other trusted sources say? Ask a search engine or a library, not the same chatbot.

T · Trace to the original

Find the study, quote, photo or data where it started. Does it say what was claimed?

> **Warm-up (or for younger middle schoolers), use three moves:** Stop. Who made it? Look in a second place.

How to run it

- **Pairs:** pairs read a scenario, write the “best first move,” then reveal the key.
- **Four corners:** read a scenario aloud. Students walk to corner A, B or C, explain the choice, then you read the key. Students may move.

Scenarios · Warm-up set

Name _____ Date _____

SCENARIO 1

An AI says: “A famous scientist at Stanford proved in 2019 that kids who use AI score 47% higher on tests.” What is your best first move?

A. Believe it. It names a university and a number.

B. Search for the study using its title and authors. If you can’t find it, don’t trust it.

C. Ask the same AI “Are you sure?” and believe the answer.

SCENARIO 2

An AI says: “There are two r’s in the word strawberry.” How can you check?

A. Count the letters yourself, one at a time.

B. Ask three more AIs and go with the majority.

C. It is a computer, so it must be right.

SCENARIO 3

An AI says 17 × 24 = 418. You estimate first: 17 is close to 20, and 20 × 24 = 480. What should you do?

A. Accept 418. It is near 480.

B. Work it out on paper to be sure. (17 × 24 = 408.)

C. Trust the AI because it did not hesitate.

SCENARIO 4

A chatbot says the Great Wall of China is easy to see from space with your own eyes. Which is the best way to check?

A. Look at what NASA or another space agency says about it.

B. Check if the chatbot sounds confident.

C. Count how many websites repeat it.

Scenarios · Grades 6–8

Name _____ Date _____

SCENARIO 1

An AI answer lists a book: "*The Silent Pattern* by Dr. Helen Ward (2018)." You cannot find it. What does that suggest?

A. The library is out of date.

B. The AI may have invented the source. Treat it as unverified until you find it.

C. The book is probably real but secret.

SCENARIO 2

You see a photo of a dramatic event. A friend says an AI wrote the caption and it looks real. What is the strongest move?

A. Share it. Others will fact-check.

B. Do a reverse image search and look for the original source and date.

C. Zoom in to check for odd hands.

SCENARIO 3

Two different AIs give opposite answers to a history question. What next?

A. Pick the one you like more.

B. Go with whichever answer appears twice in a longer chat.

C. Find a reliable primary or reference source and read what it says.

SCENARIO 4

An AI gives you a quote from Einstein that fits your essay perfectly. What is wise?

A. Use it. Einstein said everything.

B. Search for the quote with a quotation-checking site or a book source before using it.

C. Change a few words so it is not copied.

Scenarios · Grades 9–12

Name _____ Date _____

SCENARIO 1

An AI summarizes a study and says it “proves” a supplement cures anxiety. What is the most important question?

A. How long is the summary?

B. What kind of study was it, how many people, who funded it, and did others replicate it?

C. Does the AI use scientific words?

SCENARIO 2

An AI cites a real journal article, but the claim it attributes to the paper is not in the abstract. What do you do?

A. The paper is real, so the claim is real.

B. Read the paper (or the abstract and conclusion) and compare it to the AI’s claim.

C. Ask the AI to confirm it again.

SCENARIO 3

An AI agrees with everything you say, even when you share a weak argument. What is happening?

A. You are always right.

B. Sycophancy: models can be tuned toward pleasing answers. Ask it to argue the other side or name your weakest point.

C. The AI is broken.

SCENARIO 4

You find a claim in an AI answer, a blog and a social post, and all three say the same words. How many sources is that?

A. Three independent sources.

B. Possibly just one, copied three times. Trace it back to the first place it appeared.

C. Zero, because blogs are never reliable.

Answer key · Warm-up set

#	Best	Why
1	**B**	Exact numbers and famous names make a claim sound real, but they are easy to invent. The word to remember is **trace**: find the original. Asking the same AI “are you sure?” is not checking, because it can repeat the same mistake.
2	**A**	Strawberry has **three** r’s (st**r**awbe**rr**y). Some AI models have been wrong about this because they read chunks of words called tokens, not single letters. When you can check something directly, do that first.
3	**B**	Estimating tells you whether an answer is **reasonable**, but it cannot prove it is exactly right. 17 × 24 = 408, so 418 is wrong. Estimate first, then check.
4	**A**	Go to the group that would actually know. Astronauts and space agencies have addressed this myth: the Wall is very long but very narrow, so it is hard to pick out with the naked eye from orbit. Many websites repeating a myth is not evidence.

Several scenarios (the invented book, study and quote) are made up for practice, and are labeled that way so students are never taught a false fact.

Answer key · Grades 6–8

#	Best	Why
1	**B**	AI models can produce fake but realistic-looking citations. Search a library catalog or the publisher. If two honest searches find nothing, do not use it. (This book is invented for this exercise.)
2	**B**	Looking for glitches helps less every year as image tools improve. **Where did it come from, and who else reports it?** Reverse image search and trusted news sources answer that. Content Credentials can help when they are present, but a missing label proves nothing.
3	**C**	Agreement between AIs is weak evidence, because they can share the same errors from similar training data. Disagreement is a signal to look at an original source.
4	**B**	Many quotes are wrongly attributed to famous people because it makes them more shareable. A perfect-fit quote that is not sourced is a red flag. Trace it to a book, speech or letter.

Several scenarios (the invented book, study and quote) are made up for practice, and are labeled that way so students are never taught a false fact.

Answer key · Grades 9–12

#	Best	Why
1	**B**	“Proves” is a warning word. Check the study design (a trial or just a survey?), the sample size, the funder, and whether the finding has been repeated. Read the abstract yourself, not only the summary.
2	**B**	A real citation does not guarantee a real claim. Models can attach a true source to a false statement. Open the source and read what it says.
3	**B**	Sycophancy (flattering agreement) is a recognized failure in language models. Ask directly for criticism, then judge the criticism with your own thinking.
4	**B**	Repeating is not confirming. **Trace** a claim to its origin and ask who first reported it and how they knew.

Several scenarios (the invented book, study and quote) are made up for practice, and are labeled that way so students are never taught a false fact.

Student evidence log

Name _____ Date _____

Claim: _____

Where I found it: _____ Source made by: _____

I checked in a second place: _____ Original found? ☐ yes ☐ no

Verdict: ☐ supported ☐ contradicted ☐ needs more evidence

Claim: _____

Where I found it: _____ Source made by: _____

I checked in a second place: _____ Original found? ☐ yes ☐ no

Verdict: ☐ supported ☐ contradicted ☐ needs more evidence

Claim: _____

Where I found it: _____ Source made by: _____

I checked in a second place: _____ Original found? ☐ yes ☐ no

Verdict: ☐ supported ☐ contradicted ☐ needs more evidence

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ARQIV resources are written by people and checked against the sources below as of October 2026. AI tools and policies change quickly, so verify anything time-sensitive.

Sources

1. Mike Caulfield, SIFT (The Four Moves), hapgood.us, 2019.
2. Digital Inquiry Group (formerly Stanford History Education Group), Civic Online Reasoning and lateral reading.
3. Wineburg et al., lateral reading in an urban district, Journal of Educational Psychology, 2022.
4. C2PA, Content Credentials (c2pa.org).

Interactive versions: arqiv.si/teachers/ai-literacy/