Try a source detective activity

Can a confident answer still be wrong? Use this short paper activity to compare evidence with a child.

What this sample includes

Three pages: this guide, one complete activity from AI Detective Workshop, and its answers. This is a partial sample of the 26-page pack, which contains 18 activities.

Print and try

Use the edition that matches your paper: Letter or A4. Print at Actual size / 100%, portrait, single-sided. Black-and-white works. If your printer clips an edge, use Fit to printable area.

You can print only page 2 and read the other pages on screen. Use a pencil. Allow about 10 minutes, or longer if useful. Read aloud and accept spoken answers. No device, email address, account or real personal details are needed.

Ask before giving the answer

"Who made this information? When does it apply? Does it support the exact claim?" Then use page 3 to discuss the answers together.

Keep it useful and low-pressure

All library names and opening times in this exercise are invented. This is practice for checking evidence, not advice about a real library. The child can point, speak or write.

Created with AI tools. Adult-guided; not classroom-tested or independently certified. The PDF is not fillable or screen-reader tagged.

Be a source detective

This is a fictional practice case. Pretend today is October 3. A generated answer says: "Maple Library opens at 9 am every Saturday."

A Current library timetable

Maple Library official notice for October. Saturday: 10 am to 2 pm.

B Old library timetable

Maple Library official notice for September. Saturday: 9 am to noon.

C A generated answer

"I am completely sure: it opens at 9 am." No source is provided.

1 Which source is most useful for this Saturday: A, B or C?

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2 Correct the opening time using that source.

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3 Do these notices tell you Sunday's hours?

Check who published it, when it applies and whether it supports the exact claim.

Answers and a useful habit

Confidence is not evidence. Even a clear answer needs a source that fits the question.

1 Choose A

The current official October timetable is the best evidence for the pretend October date. The September notice is old for this question. The generated answer gives no source.

2 The opening time is 10 am

The current timetable says Saturday: 10 am to 2 pm. The original claim of 9 am does not match that evidence.

3 We cannot tell Sunday's hours

None of the notices supplies Sunday hours. Do not assume "closed." Missing information is a reason to ask or check another reliable source.

One question to carry with you

"What evidence supports that answer?" Try asking it about a made-up claim in a story or a classroom example. There is no need to open an AI tool.

About the full pack

AI Detective Workshop contains 18 adult-guided activities in 26 pages, with Letter and A4 PDFs, a glossary, answers and a text companion. Check the shop for availability and other printables.

https://husnain270.gumroad.com

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