

IDENTIFYING AI IMAGES

Reverse Image Search Lesson Plan

Description

This activity equips learners with practical skills to evaluate the authenticity and origin of images using reverse image search tools. This activity focuses on reverse image search as just one strategy for fact-checking. This activity has been used as a pop-up lesson during outreach tabling but can also be adapted for classroom instruction.

Learning Outcome(s)

- Use reverse image search tools to determine the origin of an image and assess if it is AI-generated.
- Explain the limitations of relying solely on visual cues to identify AI-generated images and the importance of using additional tools and strategies.

Alignment to Virginia Tech Digital Literacy Framework

- Evaluation & Reflection

Estimated Time

2-4 minutes per interaction; 10-15-minute group activity

What You'll Need

- A pre-curated set of 6-8 examples images, including AI-generated and 'real'
- Access to reverse image search tools (e.g. TinEye, Google Lens)
- Devices for students to use
- A digital platform (e.g. slide deck) for sharing example images

Facilitation Steps

1. Discussion: ask learners to reflect on their comfort with detecting AI-generated images and any strategies they've used in the past.
2. If it does not come up naturally in the initial discussion, ask if anyone has experience with reverse image search tools and explain that these tools allow users to see where a particular image has been shared online.
3. Optional: briefly demo the use of a reverse image search tool such as Google Lens or TinEye.
4. Display the pre-curated example images and provide learners with a link to view them on their own devices. Ask learners to select one image from the example set and guess whether or not they think it was AI-generated.
5. Ask learners to use a reverse image search tool to search for the image using their own device. They will need to download or take a screenshot of their chosen image before searching. If they finish quickly, invite them to search for additional images.
6. Ask participants to share what they found and then facilitate a brief discussion about how their confidence changed (or didn't) through the process.
7. From here, you can transition into further discussion or activities related to generative AI, misinformation, or other topics.