

MODULE 3 · WEEK 3 · LESSON 6

Misinformation & Deepfakes: A Verification Protocol

Reverse search, provenance, and the pause habit

WHAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO DO

- Apply a 5-step verification protocol to viral content
- Detect common deepfake artefacts and audio clones
- Practise the pause-before-sharing habit

LESSON CONTENT

The 5-step protocol

1 Source: who first posted it, and what do they gain? 2 Date: is it old content recycled? 3 Place: reverse-image-search every photo. 4 Corroboration: do two independent reputable outlets confirm? 5 Emotion: is it engineered to make me angry or afraid? Anger is a manipulation signature.

Deepfake artefacts

Watch hands, teeth, ear/hairline edges, blink patterns and lip-sync drift; listen for breathless speech and metallic tone. Audio clones often lack breaths and room tone. Absence of artefacts proves nothing, but presence proves plenty.

The pause habit

Institutionalise a 10-minute rule: nothing emotional gets shared for ten minutes, during which the protocol runs. Most viral harm dies in that pause. In families and WhatsApp groups, the pause is a public health measure.

KEY TERMS

Provenance	Origin history of a piece of content.
Reverse image search	Finding earlier uses of an image online.
Deepfake artefacts	Visual/audio flaws betraying synthesis.
Prebunking	Warning people about manipulation tactics in advance.

HANDS-ON TASK

Verify one viral claim · Tools: Reverse image search + search engine

1. Pick a claim/image circulating in your groups this week.
2. Run all 5 protocol steps, documenting each.
3. Write a 3-line verdict: confirmed / unverified / false, with reasons.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ Before you go, three takeaways from this lesson.
- ✓ One: Apply a 5-step verification protocol to viral content.
- ✓ Two: Detect common deepfake artefacts and audio clones.

- ✓ Three: Practise the pause-before-sharing habit.
- ✓ And your hands-on task: verify one viral claim.
- ✓ Pick a claim/image circulating in your groups this week.
- ✓ When it is done, mark the lesson complete on your dashboard, keep the artifact for your portfolio, and step into the next lesson.
- ✓ I will see you there.

Watch the lesson video on your dashboard, complete the task, then mark the lesson complete. Your artifact belongs in your Portfolio of Evidence.