

GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLE · GRADE 9 · ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Fact or Fiction? Media Literacy in the AI Era

AI writes the fake news so students can learn to catch it

Atanaska Nalbantova · Secondary School “Dimitar Matevski”, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

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IN THIS PRESENTATION

What you'll see



About the Lesson

Teacher, school, subject, grade and duration



Learning Objectives

What students should be able to do afterward



Lesson Flow

Five phases - from a vote on the news to a filter of one's own



AI in Action

Five AI tools and the fake content they built for class



Results & Reflection

What the lesson showed and why it was selected

About the Lesson



TEACHER

Atanaska Nalbantova



SCHOOL

Secondary School “Dimitar Matevski”,
Plovdiv, Bulgaria



SUBJECT & TOPIC

English - Fact or Fiction? Media Literacy in
the AI Era



GRADE

9th grade (15 years old)



DURATION

40 minutes



CURRICULUM LINK

Reading comprehension; detecting fake
news; modal verbs (must, might, can't)

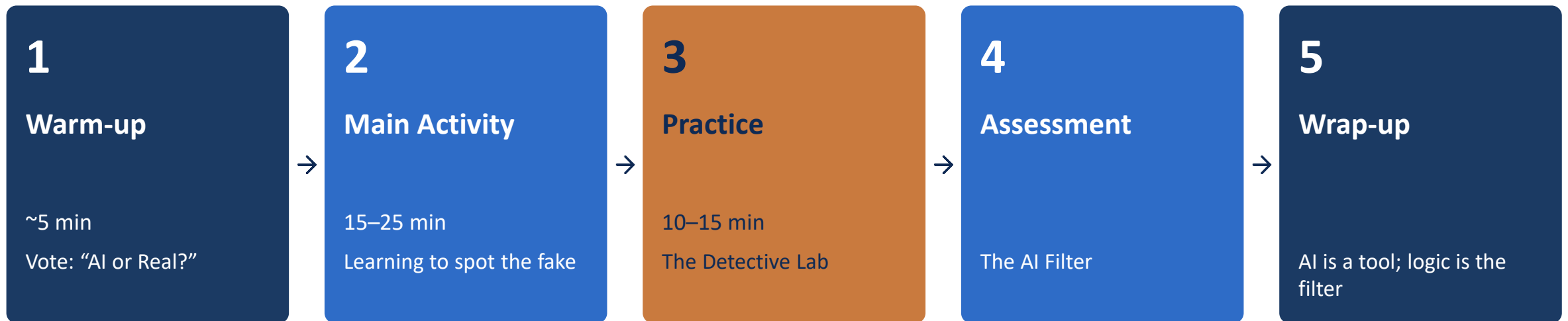


What Students Achieve

- 1** Identify at least 3 pieces of AI-generated false information across headlines, images and articles.
- 2** Explain each judgment using modal verbs of possibility - must, might, can't - instead of a flat guess.
- 3** Write a short text (4–5 sentences) on “fact-checking,” using modal verbs of possibility correctly.
- 4** Carry detective-style thinking home, to a real story spotted on social media.

SECTION 3 • LESSON STRUCTURE

Lesson Flow - Five Phases



Five different AI tools support this single 40-minute lesson - each with a distinct, well-defined role.



FIVE AI TOOLS · ONE 40-MINUTE LESSON

Teaching Students to Out-Think the Machine

What follows: how each of the five phases actually unfolded in Atanaska Nalbantova's classroom.

The “AI or Real?” Challenge

Tool: ChatGPT + Gemini

Four headlines appear on the screen - two genuinely strange-but-true stories, two built by AI to sound just as plausible. Students vote with their phones, or a sign held up by hand, before anyone reveals which is which.



Two True Stories, Two Convincing Lies

Tool: ChatGPT / Gemini

Purpose of using AI: generating headlines strange enough to pass for real news, so the vote isn't decided by gut instinct alone — the same instinct AI is built to fool.

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Generate two “weird but true” news headlines from 2024 and two completely fake but convincing headlines about technology or nature. Make them look like professional news snippets.

The real prompt used by the teacher



PHASE 2 · MAIN TEACHING ACTIVITY (15–25 MIN)

Learning to Spot the Fake



AI Presentation (7 min)

The teacher walks through a fabricated story - giant mushrooms discovered on Mars - pointing out the hedging modals and repetitive, over-emphatic sentences that give AI writing away.



Lexical Focus (8 min)

Modal verbs of possibility take center stage: “It must be AI because...” and “It might be real because...”, anchored by a vintage-cartoon infographic.



A Second Fake, Built to Analyze

Gemini drafts a 200-word article with one subtle factual error and one telltale repetitive sentence pattern, and Gamma turns it into a believable page.

Modal Verbs, Drawn Like a 1930s Cartoon

Tool: Gemini

The teacher's own prompt asked for a “vintage rubber-hose cartoon infographic” - a bouncy teacher character sorting evidence into two columns: IT MUST BE AI BECAUSE... and IT MIGHT BE REAL BECAUSE...



The Glowing Kelp of the Mariana Trench

Tool: Gemini + Gamma

Same tools, sharper deception: Gemini wrote 200 convincing words on a “newly discovered” bioluminescent kelp, and Gamma illustrated it - with two cracks left in on purpose for students to find.



Two deliberate glitches



The factual error

The article places the kelp at “50,000 meters deep” - nearly five times deeper than the Challenger Deep, the ocean's actual deepest point at about 10,935 meters.



The robotic repetition

“The vehicle captured footage. The footage showed the kelp. The kelp emitted light...” - the same Subject–Verb–Object pattern, over and over, the way AI text often does.

A Fake Article, Ready for the Detective Lab

Tool: Gamma

One of the AI-built “scientific breakthrough” articles prepared for The Detective Lab - polished, quoted, and entirely invented, right down to the skeptical experts.



Scientists Claim Breakthrough: Plants Communicate Through Radio Waves

In a groundbreaking study published today, researchers at the University of Cambridge claim to have discovered that plants can communicate with each other using radio waves. The team, led by Dr. Evelyn Thompson, spent three years conducting experiments that allegedly prove vegetation emits low-frequency electromagnetic signals to warn neighboring plants of environmental threats.



PHASE 3 · PRACTICE AND APPLICATION (10–15 MIN)

The Detective Lab

Tools: MagicSchool + Canva

Core Task

In groups, students receive a printed AI image and a short AI-written text — a “Neon-Fern” supposedly grown on Mars — and record their findings as “This can't be real because...”

Group A · Support

An AI Evidence Checklist breaks detection into five concrete checks: hands, on-image text, shadows, repeated words, too-smooth skin.

Group B · Challenge

A “Correction Report”: write a paragraph of real science — Mars' temperature, its atmosphere, how photosynthesis works — to debunk the fake discovery.

MagicSchool generated the Fact-Checker Checklist; Canva generated the “glitched” AI images every group had to examine.



The AI Filter

Method: one final headline — “A student built a robot that can do all homework perfectly.” - and students write a one-sentence judgment on paper or in Padlet, using a modal verb of necessity.

AI support: ChatGPT quickly sorts the responses into “Correct Logic” versus “Needs Improvement” while the lesson keeps moving.

Evidence of learning: students correctly identify the false elements and use at least one modal verb correctly in their sentence.



What Remains After the Lesson



Generated with AI

- Fake news headlines & articles - ChatGPT, Gemini, Canva, MagicSchool
- “Glitched” AI images for the Detective Lab - Canva
- Classroom presentation - Gamma
- Vintage cartoon infographic on modal verbs - Gemini



Traditional materials

- Printed “Detective Files” worksheets
- Paper (or Padlet) for the exit ticket
- Board

AI Is a Tool; Logic Is the Filter

Exit ticket: students share the one thing that surprised them most - how easily AI generates convincing lies, or how well they turned out to be able to catch them. The teacher closes with the lesson's one-line takeaway: AI is a tool, but human logic is the filter.

Homework: find a suspicious story on social media over the coming week, and write 3 English sentences with modal verbs explaining why it seems true or false.

TEACHER REFLECTION

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The goal is to see if students can transfer their language knowledge to practical situations.

I expect the visual materials - the infographics - to help visually perceptive students remember the structure of modal verbs more easily.

— **Atanaska Nalbantova**

Why We Chose This Lesson



Grammar With Real Stakes

Modal verbs of possibility aren't drilled in isolation - students reach for “must,” “might” and “can't” because a real judgment about a real-looking story depends on it.



Five AI Tools, Five Distinct Jobs

ChatGPT, Gemini, Canva, Gamma and MagicSchool each generate a different piece of the deception or its scaffolding - a working tour of how convincing AI misinformation can look.



Differentiation Built Into the Deception

The same Detective Lab activity stretches from a guided checklist to an independent correction report, so every student practices the same reasoning at their own level.

Thank you for your attention!

Lesson: Fact or Fiction? Media Literacy in the AI Era · Atanaska Nalbantova, Secondary School “Dimitar Matevski”, Bulgaria