AI Verification Lab for Journalists: Session Core Guide

Trainer Review Reading Edition

LANGUAGE	VERSION
English	1.0

AUDIENCE	PURPOSE
Journalists with beginner-to-mixed AI experience	Set the scope, tone, and practical framing for a 2-hour introductory session on AI-assisted verification work.

Session Core Guide

Why This Session Exists

This session is designed to help journalists understand how AI tools can support verification-related work in a practical and realistic way.

It is not a full course in investigative reporting, digital forensics, or advanced OSINT. It is a guided introduction to useful AI-supported workflows that can help with:

- checking claims

- breaking down complex statements

- reviewing sources

- analyzing documents and evidence

- supporting OSINT-style research

- organizing early-stage digital investigation work

The goal is simple: help participants see where AI can save time, improve structure, and widen the first round of checking, while also making clear where human judgment remains essential.

A Simple Definition of AI-Assisted Verification

AI-assisted verification means using AI tools to help a journalist:

- understand what a claim is really saying

- generate a checking plan

- compare multiple explanations or possibilities

- summarize large inputs

- organize evidence

- spot gaps, inconsistencies, or follow-up questions

AI can support the process. It does not replace proof, reporting, editorial judgment, or field verification.

Core Message of the Session

AI should be treated as:

- a thinking assistant

- a drafting assistant

- a pattern-finding assistant

- a workflow helper

AI should not be treated as:

- a final authority

- a fact by itself

- a verified source

- a substitute for direct checking

What This Session Covers

This session focuses on practical, high-level use cases that work well in a live online format.

Main topics

- using large language models to break down claims

- selecting the right tool for the task

- checking text, images, video context, and document sets

- using AI to plan verification steps

- understanding the limits and risks of AI outputs

Session style

- demo-based

- discussion-based

- beginner-friendly

- practical rather than academic

What This Session Does Not Cover

To keep the session focused and useful, it does not aim to teach:

- full investigative journalism methods

- advanced forensic image analysis

- deep legal or editorial policy training

- advanced metadata extraction workflows

- platform-specific expert tactics for every OSINT use case

Participants should leave with a strong orientation, not complete mastery.

A Good Working Model for Participants

During the session, participants can use this simple model:

1. Start with the claim, file, image, or source.

2. Ask AI to clarify what needs to be checked.

3. Use the right verification tools for the evidence type.

4. Compare AI suggestions against real sources and real records.

5. Make a human decision about what is verified, uncertain, or unsupported.

Where AI Helps Most

AI is especially useful when a journalist needs to:

- turn a vague claim into clear verification questions

- summarize large amounts of text quickly

- compare several possible interpretations

- identify missing context

- draft a verification checklist

- organize notes from multiple documents or sources

- prepare for a live or newsroom discussion

Where Human Verification Is Still Required

Human verification is still required for:

- deciding whether a source is trustworthy
- confirming evidence through original or primary sources
- judging context, intent, and credibility
- handling sensitive topics and personal data
- making editorial calls about what can be published
- recognizing when an AI answer sounds confident but is weak

Practical Session Promise

By the end of the session, participants should be able to:

- describe what AI-assisted verification means
- choose a suitable tool for a basic task
- follow simple workflows for common verification scenarios
- recognize major AI-related risks
- use AI with more structure and less blind trust

Suggested Framing for the Trainer

Useful message to repeat during the session:

> AI can help you think faster, sort faster, and compare faster. It cannot verify reality for you on its own.

Suggested NotebookLM Use

Use this source inside NotebookLM to:

- generate a short session overview
- create trainer talking points
- produce a beginner FAQ
- draft a session introduction for slides or a landing page