AI Verification Lab for Journalists: LLM and Tool Guide

Trainer Review Reading Edition

LANGUAGE English	**VERSION** 1.1
AUDIENCE Journalists with beginner-to-mixed AI experience	**PURPOSE** Help participants choose the right AI or verification tool for a specific task in a 2-hour beginner-friendly session.

LLM and Tool Guide

Start With the Task, Not the Tool

For this session, the most useful habit is simple:

Do not ask, "Which AI tool is best?"

Ask, "What am I trying to verify right now, and which tool helps me do that safely?"

This matters because different tools help at different stages:

- some help you think through a claim
- some help you work through a source pack
- some help you inspect images or archived pages
- none of them should be treated as the final source of truth

Quick Tool Picker for Live Use

If the task is...	Start here	Then check with...	Keep in mind
break a textual claim into smaller questions	ChatGPT or Claude	official sources, direct search, Fact Check Explorer	good for structure, not proof

If the task is...	Start here	Then check with...	Keep in mind
compare several reports quickly	ChatGPT, Gemini, or Claude	primary source and publication date	summaries can flatten differences
review a document pack or long notes	NotebookLM or Claude	original files and source trail	source quality shapes the answer
scan fast-moving online discussion	Grok or ChatGPT	direct source tracing and manual verification	speed increases noise
inspect a suspicious image or short video	InVID plus an LLM for clue lists	reverse search, frame checks, source tracing	visual tools help, but context still matters
see whether a page changed over time	Wayback Machine	current live page and other records	archive gaps are common
check whether a claim was already examined	Google Fact Check Explorer	original fact check and date	useful shortcut, not final judgment

A Good Beginner Stack for This Session

For a 2-hour online session, keep the stack simple:

- one main LLM for thinking support

- NotebookLM for source-pack summaries

- InVID for visual checking support

- Wayback Machine for archived page checks

- Google Fact Check Explorer for previous fact-check coverage

That is enough for a strong introduction without overwhelming participants.

Practical Difference Between the Main LLMs

Tool	Best first use in this session	Strength in practice	Main caution
ChatGPT	claim breakdown and verification planning	flexible, fast, good at turning messy input into structured questions	can sound more certain than the evidence supports
Gemini	topic exploration linked to Google-style workflows	useful for document review and broad comparison work	search-linked answers can still be wrong or incomplete

Tool	Best first use in this session	Strength in practice	Main caution
NotebookLM	source-grounded work from uploaded material	strong for notes, synthesis, and briefing from selected sources	only as good as the uploaded material
Claude	long-form reading and calm synthesis	helpful with long documents and careful summaries	polished writing can hide weak sourcing
Grok	fast exploration of public discussion	useful for early-stage hypothesis generation	public chatter is not verification

Palestinian-Context Note: Search Reality

In Palestinian media work, one practical challenge is that useful evidence may be scattered across Arabic, English, and sometimes Hebrew sources.

That means the verification task is often not just "search more," but:

- search across more than one language
- compare how the same event is described across audiences
- watch for mistranslation, partial quotation, or context loss

AI can help generate alternate search wording, but the journalist still needs to judge which language version is closest to the original source.

Tool Profiles

ChatGPT

What it is

A flexible general-purpose assistant for reasoning, drafting, file review, and structured questioning.

Best used for

- turning a claim into checkable questions
- drafting a verification checklist
- summarizing a note set or uploaded file
- comparing possible interpretations

Where it helps journalists

It is often the easiest place to start when the material is messy and the journalist needs a clearer plan.

Limits and caution

- may invent details
- may blur evidence and interpretation
- may over-compress nuance

Do not rely on it for

proof, source authentication, or the final factual judgment

Gemini

What it is

A general AI assistant that fits well into Google-centered research and document workflows.

Best used for

- exploring a topic from multiple angles
- reviewing documents and notes
- comparing broad public information quickly

Where it helps journalists

It can be practical when the workflow already involves Google search habits, Google documents, or quick topic comparison.

Limits and caution

- can still hallucinate
- may encourage premature trust because the workflow feels search-connected
- web information quality varies widely

Do not rely on it for

direct evidence, chain-of-proof work, or final source judgment

NotebookLM

What it is

A source-grounded workspace built around documents and materials the user provides.

Best used for

- reviewing a selected source pack

- creating briefing notes

- extracting themes or repeated points across documents

- preparing trainer notes, outlines, and FAQs

Where it helps journalists

It is useful when the journalist already has a bounded set of materials and wants structured help without opening the workflow too widely.

Limits and caution

- incomplete source packs produce incomplete answers

- strong summaries can still miss conflict or disagreement between sources

- it does not replace reading crucial evidence directly

Do not rely on it for

deciding that the source pack itself is complete, balanced, or verified

Claude

What it is

A conversational assistant often used for long reading, synthesis, and careful written summaries.

Best used for

- reviewing long documents

- extracting contradictions and open questions

- drafting calm summaries of complex material

Where it helps journalists

It is especially useful when the journalist needs help turning long text into a clear analytical structure.

Limits and caution

- fluent writing can feel more trustworthy than the underlying evidence
- vague prompts can produce vague analysis

Do not rely on it for

replacing close reading of key evidence or replacing editorial judgment

Grok

What it is

A fast conversational tool often used to explore public conversation and generate follow-up questions quickly.

Best used for

- scanning possible angles in a fast-moving story
- identifying what needs checking next
- comparing public narratives before formal verification begins

Where it helps journalists

It can help early in a story cycle when the main need is to surface claims, patterns, or competing narratives that require checking.

Limits and caution

- fast-moving public conversation is noisy
- rumors and reactions can overwhelm source-based reporting

Do not rely on it for

confirming truth when the underlying material comes mostly from social posts or public chatter

InVID

What it is

A verification toolset commonly used to inspect images, extract video frames, and support visual checks.

Best used for

- pulling frames from video

- supporting reverse-image or reverse-frame workflows
- checking whether visual material has appeared before

Where it helps journalists

It is one of the most useful tools in this session for suspicious visual content because it helps turn a moving clip into smaller, more checkable pieces.

Limits and caution

- it does not prove the whole story by itself
- results still need interpretation and source tracing

Do not rely on it for

full claims about date, location, authenticity, or meaning without other evidence

Wayback Machine

What it is

A web archive that captures earlier versions of webpages and websites.

Best used for

- checking whether a page changed
- comparing current and earlier wording
- recovering public pages that were edited or removed

Where it helps journalists

It is useful when the claim depends on whether something was posted, deleted, softened, or changed over time.

Limits and caution

- not every page is archived
- archived captures can be partial
- capture timing matters

Do not rely on it for

assuming that "not found" means "never existed"

Google Fact Check Explorer

What it is

A search tool that helps locate published fact checks.

Best used for

- seeing whether a claim has already been checked
- finding related fact-check coverage
- spotting repeated misinformation themes

Where it helps journalists

It saves time, especially for recurring claims that circulate in slightly different wording.

Limits and caution

- not all fact checks are included
- fact checks differ in quality, date, and scope

Do not rely on it for

treating a previous fact check as the end of your own verification work

Palestinian-Context Note: Verification Under Intensity

In Palestinian media environments, journalists may need to verify material while:

- events are moving quickly
- emotional pressure is high
- source access is limited
- old visuals are being recirculated as current

In that situation, the best use of AI is often not "give me the answer."

It is:

- help me break this claim down
- help me list what I still need to confirm
- help me track what is observation and what is interpretation

That keeps the journalist in control.

Trainer Shortcut

A useful line during the session:

> Use LLMs to think. Use verification tools to inspect. Use human judgment to decide.

Suggested NotebookLM Use

Use this source inside NotebookLM to:

- generate a slide-ready tool picker
- produce a short FAQ on which tool to use when
- create trainer notes for the live demo section
- support future web app cards such as "best tool for this task"

Generated 2026-03-24