**Lesson Title:** Seeing isn’t always believing

**Description of the lesson:** Finding the truth is not as easy as it looks. It requires some work to gather sources, documents and understanding of an issue – but it also includes focusing on verification and confirmation. What you see or hear at first reference isn’t always the whole story.

**Objectives**

***by the end of this lessons, students will be able to ..***

* Identify the steps to verification and confirmation in journalism.

Before beginning on this assignment, read the following:

* Blur, Chapter 6
* [News Values for a New Age of Journalism](http://www.timporter.com/firstdraft/archives/000436.html)

**Procedures:**

Take the case provided below and take the steps to verify and confirm the information before going on air. The case below is intended for broadcast within an hour of receiving the information.

***CASE: Your assignment editor hears over the police radio scanner that a shooting has been reported on the east side of the city. The shooting may include multiple fatalities. Scanner traffic points to area schools being forced to lockdown for a possible active shooter in the area.***

What do you do? Will you run the information of a fatal shooting without confirmation from authorities? If so, what information would you need to help confirm and verify the information?

* Treat the information as if you have not been able to get in contact with police officials.
* Map out the first steps to get the information verified.
* How many reporters do you send to the scene?
	+ Where should they be stationed?
	+ What can they collect?
	+ What information are you looking for?
* What can be confirmed by simply viewing the scene?
	+ Is BCI on scene?
* How will you handle eyewitness accounts?

Write your steps to verification, along with an essay defending your decision to run a broadcast version of the breaking news. What did you decide? Will you run with the information from the police scanner or did other information need to be confirmed before moving forward? If so, what would that be.

NOTE: There are a number of factors that could arise in each situation. Use your best judgment on the course of action you would take to confirm and verify the information.