

Critical observation challenge: Was Elsa really arrested?

Educator Instructions

Summary

This [upper elementary slideshow activity](#) introduces students to “critical observation skills,” or the ability to identify key elements in a piece of visual information text. By closely examining an actual social media post by a police department in Illinois about the “arrest” of Elsa from Disney’s *Frozen*, students identify evidence indicating that the photos and claims in the post are misleading. Students also consider and discuss the primary purpose of the post and what led to people’s confusion.

Essential questions

- How can social media posts be misunderstood?
- Why are critical observation skills important when using social media?
- What problems can arise when people take a joke on social media seriously?
- How can a joke fail on social media?

Key terms

Critical observation

Evidence

Purpose

CCSS primary alignment

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.3](#)

Analyze how and why individuals, events, or ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.6](#)

Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.7](#)

Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.8](#)

Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.

Learning objective

I can use critical observation skills to:

- evaluate the authenticity and purpose of a photo shared on social media.
- identify key questions to ask about images and claims on social media.
- explain how satire and other forms of humor can cause confusion online.

Suggested grade level(s):

4-6