A GUIDE TO CITING IMAGES

CAN YOU SEE BENEATH THE SURFACE?
Before you cite an image like the one below, you need to know a few things.

START BY ASKING YOURSELF THESE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

What do I see?
A baby in a kayak on a river!

Does this make sense?
No. A baby is too small to use a kayak. This image may have been altered.

Why or why not?
The context of the image doesn’t match the scene and looks a little off.

What might be missing?
There are no reflections or ripples in the water from the kayak. The baby may be digitally added to the image. Thanx goodness for the baby.

HAS A BORN DIGITAL IMAGE BEEN ALTERED? FOUR TESTS TO CHECK

Use an image search engine to compare your image/photo with others.

Check for metadata. The absence of metadata can be evidence of photo editing.

Locate the small white dot (a reflection of the light source) in the eyes of each person.

Compare shadows of similar objects to check consistency. Draw lines to check the light source.

CITING A PHOTO, IMAGE OR WORK OF ART IN NOODLETOOLS (MLA ADVANCED)

Visit the NoodleTools website for information literacy support, and tools to help cite even the trickiest sources.

www.noodletools.com