

The Missing Piece Detective

GAME

SKILL: SPOTTING WHAT'S MISSING

45 MINUTES

RECOMMENDED AGE RANGE

Ages 8 to 14. Old enough to read short documents, young enough to find the hunt fun.

WHAT YOU NEED

Three printouts (one ad, one consent form or terms-of-service block, one news article)

A timer (kitchen, phone, or stopwatch)

A notebook or single sheet of paper per person

A pen or pencil per person

A flat surface big enough to spread three documents side by side

ACTIVITY STEPS

- 01 First Skim (4 min).** Lay the three documents on the table. Each person picks one different document to start. Set a 4-minute timer and read your document normally, the way you would skim it on a phone.
- 02 Hunt the Gaps (4 min).** Reset the timer for 4 minutes and read the same document a second time. This pass, write down every question the document does not answer. Be specific. Who is funding this. How long the data is kept. What happens after the trial expires. Treat the missing pieces as the actual content.
- 03 Pass and Add (10 min).** When the timer ends, pass your document and your question list clockwise. The next person reads it, adds questions to your list, and crosses out any of yours they think the document actually did answer.
- 04 Vote the Worst Offender (15 min).** After all three documents have circulated, gather as a group. Read each list out loud. Vote on which document was the worst offender, the one that hid the most while sounding the most reassuring.
- 05 Write the Rule (12 min).** End with one new family rule for the next week. Nobody signs, clicks, or agrees to anything new without first asking, what is this not telling me? Write it on a sticky note and tape it to the fridge.

THE DEEPER LESSON

The preschool study got pulled because parents named what the consent form refused to say. The Missing Piece Detective trains that same muscle in your kid, with low-stakes documents, on a Saturday morning. The skill is not paranoia. It is the curiosity to slow down and notice the gaps before you sign across them.

CONVERSATION STARTER

If a permission slip had to tell you everything it is currently leaving out, what do you think would be at the top of that list?

Raised Nimble

You cannot out-compete AI. But you can out-human it.

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