Illustrative sample, written to the real capstone brief and rubric. Learner projects are never published without a parent's written consent.

FAKECHECK

Is this "school's closed" message real?

LEARNER	AGE	COHORT	ASSIGNMENT
Maya (sample)	**12**	**Founding North America cohort**	**Week 8 capstone**

The brief: pick a real problem you have seen. Design an AI-assisted way to help with it: decide whether AI belongs, what data it would need, how it would decide, test the idea on examples, and say who it could harm. Say what AI did and what you did. No coding needed.

1 THE PROBLEM

Every winter, fake "school's closed tomorrow" messages go round our class group chats. Last winter one said my school was shut for a water leak. It wasn't, and some kids stayed home.

Who has it: Students and parents in my school's group chats.

AI or not? A simple checklist can do most of this. AI could help flag messages that look odd, but a person at school always has the final say.

2 THE DATA IT WOULD NEED

WHAT	HOW MANY	WHERE FROM	PRIVACY
Real closure messages from my school	40	School emails and website, last three winters	Names and phone numbers removed
Known fake messages	25	Screenshots friends shared, with permission	Names, numbers and faces removed
The school calendar	1	School website	Public

What could be wrong with this data: Most of my fakes come from one group chat, so FakeCheck might only learn what fakes look like there.

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3 HOW IT DECIDES

1. **Did it come from the school's own account, email or website?**
   If not: check with the school
2. **Does every link go to the school's real web address?**
   If not: likely fake
3. **Does it rush you? ("Share now!", "before it's deleted")**
   If yes: one warning
4. **Does the date match the school calendar or the weather?**
   If not: one warning

NO WARNINGS	ONE WARNING	TWO OR MORE
Looks real	Check with the school	Likely fake

Rule or pattern? These are rules I wrote. A trained model would learn patterns from my 65 examples instead. In AI Thinkers I could build both and compare.

4 THE TEST

Tested on 10 messages I did not use to write the rules. 8 of 10 right: one false alarm and one miss.

	EXAMPLE	FAKECHECK SAID	REALLY	RESULT
1	"Snow day: all schools closed Monday" (school email)	**Looks real**	Real	**Right**
2	"SCHOOL CLOSED tmrw!! share before it's deleted"	**Likely fake**	Fake	**Right**
3	"Water leak, school closed, see link" (link: school-c1osed.net)	**Likely fake**	Fake	**Right**
4	Early closing for a storm, texted from the principal's own phone	**Check with the school**	Real	**False alarm**
5	"Exams cancelled for all of next week"	**Likely fake**	Fake	**Right**
6	Website notice: closed for election day	**Looks real**	Real	**Right**
7	A fake that copied the school's exact wording and link style	**Looks real**	Fake	**Miss**
8	"Heating broken, stay home" posted by a parent in the class chat	**Check with the school**	Fake	**Right**
9	Two-hour late start, from the school app	**Looks real**	Real	**Right**
10	"Closed for a gas leak, don't tell the teachers"	**Likely fake**	Fake	**Right**

What I changed: messages from a staff member's own phone now say "ask the school office", and I added a check on how the link is spelled.

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5 WHO IT COULD HARM, AND WHAT I DID ABOUT IT

False alarm
A real closure marked "fake" could send a kid to a closed school in a storm. So FakeCheck never says "fake" about an official-looking message. It says "check with the school".

Miss
A clever fake can still pass. So FakeCheck shows its reasons, not just a verdict, and anyone can report a message.

Fairness
Messages in other languages, or from parents who write casually, might get flagged more. I would test with messages in the languages families at my school use.

Privacy
No names or phone numbers are kept, and nothing leaves the school.

✓ CREDIT

What AI did
Suggested common warning signs of fake messages, and helped me word the rules clearly.

What I did
Chose the four checks, collected and cleaned the examples, ran the test and wrote this up. I checked the AI's list against my school's own advice and dropped "spelling mistakes": our real messages have those too.

6 FACILITATOR'S EVALUATION

A real, specific problem	**Strong**
Data: what, where from, what is missing	**Secure**
How it decides: clear, testable rules	**Secure**
Who it could harm, and what to do about it	**Strong**
Credit: what AI did, what I did	**Secure**

Overall
Meets the capstone standard. Strongest on who it could harm. Next: test the false-alarm fix on real messages from this winter.
Ready for AI Thinkers, where FakeCheck could become a working no-code prototype.

How to read the levels. Developing: shows the skill with prompting. Secure: shows it on their own most of the time. Strong: shows it unprompted, and can explain why it matters. The same scale is used in the parent report.

What this level does not do yet: build a working app. That is AI Thinkers, where a design like this becomes a no-code prototype that is tested with real users.