

# PAPER TRAIL

*Tracing Claims to Their Source*

**DOMAIN: POLITICS**

TRAIL LENGTH: 4 hops, 5 exhibits

No dead ends — one exhibit is real

**THE CLAIM (see Exhibit A)**

A campaign's post says their internal poll “proves” they’re safely ahead by 4 points, “outside the margin of error,” citing statistical research on polling accuracy.

**YOUR TASK**

Work backward through Exhibits A–E. At each hop, identify what the next exhibit actually is, and what kind of source it is. One exhibit is a real, independently verifiable reference — find it, and compare what it actually says to how the earlier exhibits describe it.

**1 HOP 1: The campaign's webpage** *see Exhibit B*

What did you find, and where? What tipped you off?

Source type:  Original research  News article  Press release  Blog / opinion  Social post  Advertisement  Website

**2 HOP 2: The blog article** *see Exhibit C*

What did you find, and where? What tipped you off?

Source type:  Original research  News article  Press release  Blog / opinion  Social post  Advertisement  Website

**3 HOP 3: The press release** *see Exhibit D*

What did you find, and where? What tipped you off?

Source type:  Original research  News article  Press release  Blog / opinion  Social post  Advertisement  Website

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**HOP 4: The underlying citation**

*see Exhibit E*

What did you find, and where? What tipped you off?

Four horizontal text input fields for recording findings and locations.

Source type:

- Original research
- News article
- Press release
- Blog / opinion
- Social post
- Advertisement
- Website

**FIELD NOTES**

What changed between Exhibit E and the version you first saw? What got dropped, exaggerated, or reframed?

Seven horizontal text input fields for field notes.