NEWS BREAK

Article: **Smartphone photos are getting faker. Uh-oh?**

Section: **BUSINESS, C7**

Sunday’s News Break selects an article from **Sunday, October 29, 2023**, of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some teachers might use this as a take-home assignment and others might read and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

*Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for your students.*

**Standards:**

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

**Objectives:**

Students will learn about how AI is changing photos. They will discuss the ethical issues surrounding artificial images and how we should navigate that. Students will also discuss the statement, that a photo is no longer a visual fact and whether that statement bothers them, or not.

**Pre-Reading Discussion:**

- What do you think the article will be about, using this picture?

- Are there any clues? What can you infer?
Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using context clues? A context clue is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

“Using these AI tools to produce and share photos could contribute to the spread of fake media online when misinformation is already rampant and it’s hard to know what to trust.”

Rampant Guess:

Rampant Definition:

Comprehension Questions:

1. Smartphone cameras became extremely powerful over the last ______ years.
2. Their leap in quality was largely driven by advancements in computational photography. What is it?
3. Now we all can shoot stunning images that rival the work of professionals. So, what’s next? I hate to say it: ________ photos.
4. Google, which has long been an industry leader in smartphone photography, has started shipping the Pixel 8, a $700 handset with a suite of what?
5. The phone software does much more than adjust the sharpness and brightness of a photo — it uses AI to do what?
6. What are 2 examples that were given in the article, of using AI to improve your phone photos?
7. The company said the ____________ was the first device with the AI editor, which means the same tools could soon arrive for other devices.
8. Google’s AI photo editor is part of a wave of generative AI that became popular in the last year after the release of the ChatGPT chatbot. What does that program do?
9. Yet the Pixel 8 is a turning point. Why?
10. Using these AI tools to produce and share photos could contribute to the spread of ________ ________ online when misinformation is already rampant and it’s hard to know what to trust.

Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions:

• What surprised (or stood out to) you in the article?
• At first, I thought _______________, but now I think ____________?
• What things did you already know from prior experience?
Do you use filters when you post pictures online? Why?
How do you think AI will continue to change photos of people?

“This is a really big moment that’s going to change a lot of things about imagery,” said Ren Ng, a computer science professor at the University of California, Berkeley, who teaches courses on computational photography. “As we go boldly forth into this future, a photo is no longer a visual fact.”

A photo is no longer a visual fact. Does this statement bother you? Why or why not?

And even when the technology matures, there are broader questions — such as the ethical issues of artificial images — to consider and navigate.

What is your opinion on the ethical issues of creating fake images?

News Break is posted to the Web on Tuesday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please register online or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.

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