



CREATING A HYPOTHESIS

Public Interest Journalism

AGENDA DAY 2



6 hours
15-minute breaks
30-minute lunch break

Why start with a hypothesis?

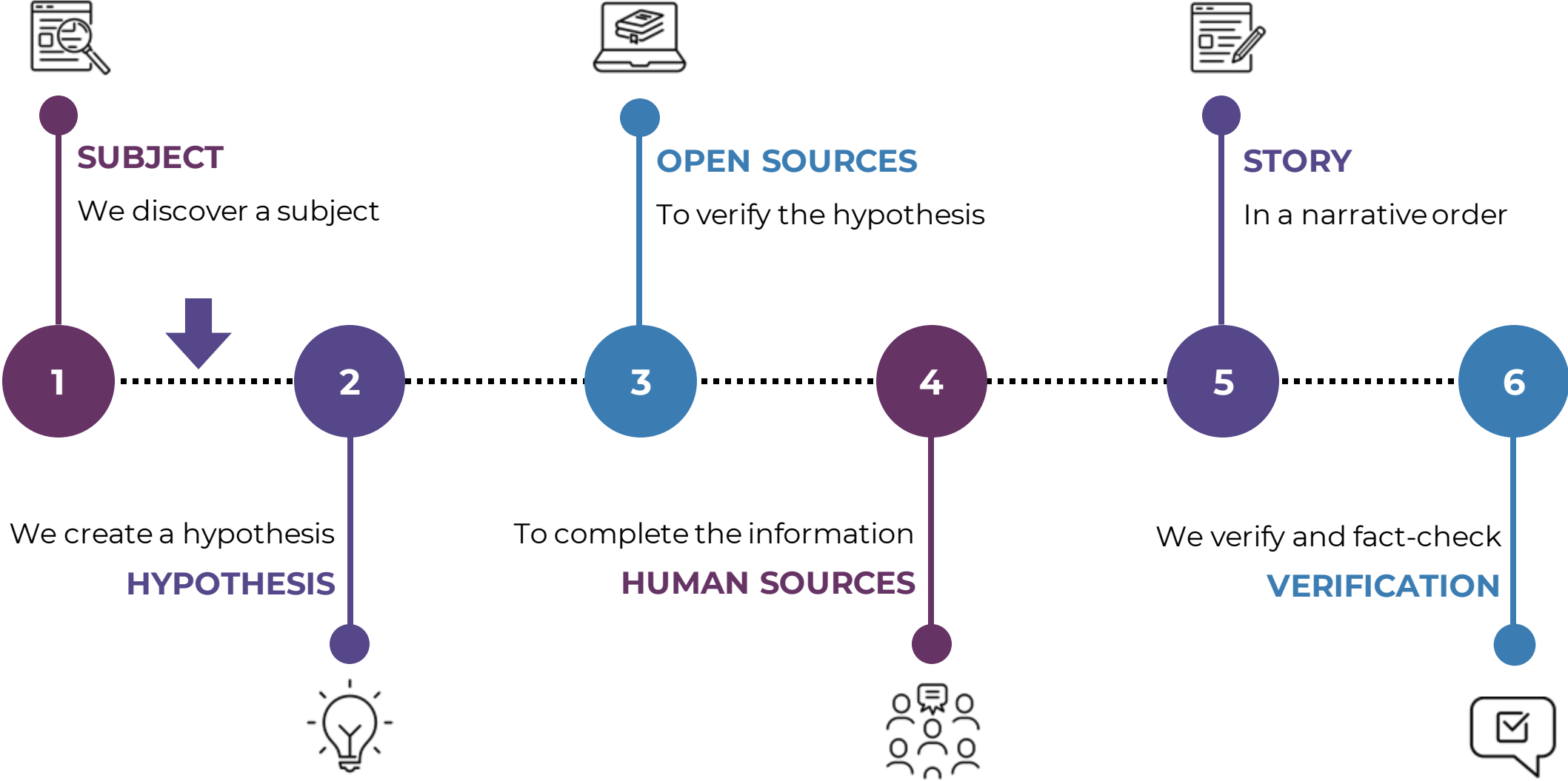
Elements of a good hypothesis

How to use a hypothesis

Let's break the ice.



STORY-BASED INQUIRY





SUBJECT COACHING

WRITING A HYPOTHESIS



Starting with a Hypothesis



Advantages

1. It is a **starting point**
2. People are more likely to confirm/deny
3. Helps **deliver a story**



Disadvantages

1. You can **harm innocent people** by...
 - a. **Leaving out facts** that disprove your hypothesis
 - b. Being **careless**

Hypothesis

A plausible explanation based on the best available evidence at the investigator's disposition



Elements of a Hypothesis

WHO has the biggest responsibility?

WHAT did they do?

Doctors are killing
prematurely-born babies
*to stop them from growing
up with disabilities*

WHY did they do it?



PRACTICE

Go to **menti.com**, enter the code [xxxxxxx] and answer the following question:

Can you rate these hypotheses?



Is it a good hypothesis?

Both Libyan governments (East and West) have received billions of dollars in bribes from wealthy corporations to make illegal deals in the energy sector to secretly fund ISIS.



Is it a good hypothesis?

Local Energy drink manufacturers put illegal drugs (cocaine and/or amphetamines) into the drinks causing deaths due to heart attacks. They do it to get people hooked and to make money.



Is it a good hypothesis?

The Kiwasco company hasn't put underground sewers around the Migosi state in Kenya, thereby causing raw sewage to flow out onto the street causing an unsanitary situation where children play causing disease, illness, etc.



Is it a good hypothesis?

W&K SA is a construction company that wins tenders to build local schools which then fall down due to poor construction. They use poor materials to save costs and bribe local officials to get tenders. There has been at least one fatality.



Now what?:
**How to Work
with a Hypothesis**

- 1** Create an **initial hypothesis**
- 2** Find **verifiable parts** of the hypothesis, **classified from easiest to hardest** to verify.
- 3** **Analyse the easiest part:** does the hypothesis stand up?
- 4** **Further verify** with open and human sources
- 5** **Change** the hypothesis constantly

**Which parts
could be verified?**



**Doctors are killing
prematurely-born babies
to stop them from
growing up with
disabilities**



Time to write!



Turn your subject into a hypothesis using these guiding questions:

- What do you hope to reveal?
- What do others say is going on?
- Who is responsible for the situation?
 - What did they do?
 - Why did they do it?

Share in plenary





REFLECTION

**What is your key
takeaway from this
session?**

QUESTIONS





THANK YOU!

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