

Investigative Method

Communications & Media

A hypothesis, tested against documents, that you are willing to lose.

From tip to publication.

1

State the hypothesis

Write the story you think is true as a sentence you must prove.

2

Find the paper

Records, filings, contracts and databases before interviews.

3

Build the chronology

One dated line per event, each with its source. This is the spine.

4

Test it to destruction

Actively hunt the evidence that would kill the hypothesis.

5

Put it to them

Full, specific allegations in writing, with real time to reply.

6

Legal and edit

Every claim traced to evidence you actually hold.

Educational reference. Right of reply is both an ethical duty and, in many jurisdictions, central to a defence. Take advice locally.