Start with one question

Choose one question, a time period and a place. Separate a family story from a record you have checked.

1. Person reference or nickname; time/place boundary

P1: Morgan Vale in S1; reportedly a child in East Cedar around 1911. All people and records are fictional.

2. Question and why it matters

Which school did P1 attend around 1911? S1 reports a story, not a verified school.

3. What is reported or documented; source reference and limits

S1: Casey heard a family story; no firsthand observation. S2: a register entry, not a verified P1 match.

4. Possibility to test; what would contradict it

River School is my guess, not a school name stated in S1. Test it only after resolving identity.

5. One source to seek; search terms and date range

Compare S2 and S3; seek a record linking the known family to the child. That record is not supplied.

6. Next action, review date and unresolved limit

Identity unresolved. Next: inspect family-link evidence and record origins; no successful search assumed.

Short notes: 120 characters per blank field. For longer answers, label a continuation with worksheet ID and field number. Download, save, reopen and inspect entries in your viewer. Keep completed records private.

Map people without merging them

Use person references, not sensitive details. A shared name alone does not establish identity or a family relationship.

1. P1: chosen label, approximate dates/places, source

P1: Morgan Vale in S1; reportedly a child around 1911. Exact dates and identity are unresolved.

2. P2: chosen label, approximate dates/places, source

P2: Rowan Vale, reported caregiver in S1. The role is a recollection, not a proven relationship.

3. Additional person/candidate reference; keep uncertain identities separate

P5: adult candidate Morgan Vale, age 32, West Cedar, in S4. Keep separate from P1 and the S2/S3 child.

4. Relationship: from reference -> to reference; relationship description

P2 to P1: reported caregiver only. No legal or biological relationship inferred.

5. Evidence for the relationship and uncertainty

S1 reports the role. S2-S4 name no caregiver and do not verify the relationship.

6. Possible same-name collision or conflicting relationship; next check

S2/S3: child in East Cedar. S4: adult in West Cedar. Same name is insufficient to merge these candidates.

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Ask permission, then listen

An interview is optional. Agree on purpose, recording and audience before starting. These notes are not a legal release.

1. Purpose and topics the participant is comfortable discussing

Ask Casey about the family story and its origin. Casey may skip topics or stop.

2. Agreed choices: notes, recording, transcription service, audience

S1 permits private written notes only. No recording, transcription service or public sharing agreed.

3. Open prompt: what do you remember, and how do you know?

What were you told about Morgan and school? Who told you, and what remains uncertain?

4. Record the words faithfully; distinguish quote from paraphrase

Paraphrase: Casey heard of a school near a river. Casey did not witness the events.

5. Dates/names uncertain; follow-up without leading the answer

Ask what supports around 1911. Keep the date approximate; do not invent an exact year of attendance.

6. Review with participant; restrictions and private record location

Offer paraphrase review. Keep S1 in the agreed private project file; no public release.

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Leave a trail someone can follow

Keep enough detail to find each record again. An unsuccessful search is a result, not proof that an event never happened.

1. Search: question, date, collection/repository, terms and limits

L1, 2026-11-02: supplied fictional index; exact Morgan Vale; year 1905 only; no variants or other years.

2. Source ID; creator/title, record date, locator/page and access date

S2: DTP synthetic Cedar School Register, 1911-03-01, practice p7/line3; read 2026-11-02.

3. What the source explicitly says; claim supported and identity limits

S2 lists Morgan Vale, age 11, East Cedar, at Cedar School. It does not identify this child as P1.

4. Unsuccessful search or missing information; what it does NOT prove

L1: no exact match in that limited exercise. It does not prove absence or no school attendance.

5. Compare possible matches and conflicts; do not combine too soon

S3 age 10 in 1910 is compatible with S2 age 11 in 1911. Same person and independent origins are unproven.

6. Conclusion label: supported / tentative / unresolved; next action

Tentative: S2/S3 may describe one child. Unresolved: P1 match and school. Seek a family link.

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Compare candidates and record origins

Keep each candidate and source distinct. Matching details support a comparison; they do not automatically establish identity.

1. Research person and candidate references; source IDs

P1 from S1; child candidate in S2/S3; adult candidate P5 in S4. No identity merge made.

2. Details that agree; preserve dates, places and exact scope

S2: age 11, East Cedar, 1911-03-01. S3: age 10, East Cedar, 1910-03-01. Compatible, not proven identical.

3. Details that differ or are missing; no invented explanation

S4: age 32, West Cedar, 1911-03-01. No source links P1 or Rowan to either candidate.

4. Record creator/origin and possible copying; what is unknown

S2/S3 origins are supplied only as synthetic titles. Whether one copied another is not established.

5. What would distinguish candidates; next evidence to seek

Seek a record linking the known family to a candidate, then assess its identity details and origin.

6. Current match decision and limit; keep the original references

S2/S3: possible match. P1 link unresolved. P5 kept separate. No family relationship inferred.

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Revise a conclusion and review sharing

Separate a changed interpretation from new evidence. Check the intended audience against actual participation and sharing choices.

1. Question and earlier conclusion; version/date reference

Question: P1 school around 1911. Earlier note: River School possible; that name was my guess.

2. New source, corrected reading or no new evidence; cite the change

No new record. Re-read S1: it says near a river, not River School. Correct the wording only.

3. Current conclusion: what is supported, tentative and unresolved

S2 entry is supported within the exercise. S2/S3 identity tentative. P1 identity/school unresolved.

4. Exact material and intended audience; existing choice reference

Proposed public paragraph based on S1. Existing choice: Casey permits private written notes only.

5. Sharing decision or unresolved permission; do not infer approval

Do not publish that paragraph under the recorded choice. Any changed use needs a separate decision.

6. Next action, private master location and review trigger

Keep the corrected note privately with S1-S4/L1. Revisit if relevant evidence or sharing choices change.

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