

The Disputed-Numbers Handling Card

Four states for any number in this course. Know which one you are in before you put a number on screen.

1. Sourced

What it is: a single figure verified against a primary or reputable source, with no credible competing figure.

On-screen rule: state it plainly, with its source, in the body of the sentence.

WORKED EXAMPLE, FROM THE COURSE

Philip II issued the royal order establishing the compensation model behind the *principalía* on 11 June 1594 (Blair & Robertson, *The Philippine Islands, 1493 to 1898*, vol. 17). One date, one document, no competing version.

2. Disputed

What it is: multiple credible sources give different figures for the same thing, and the course cannot close the gap.

On-screen rule: state the range, name every figure and its source in the same breath, and do not pick one.

WORKED EXAMPLE, FROM THE COURSE

Published death figures for the 1981 Manila Film Center scaffolding collapse run from 3 (the government's own count) to 7 (architect Froilan Hong, via the *Inquirer*), 26 (a same-day UPI wire), 40 to 45 (Manila Bulletin Research), and "at least 169" (the most circulated figure and the least directly documented). The course does not pick one. The absence of a settled count is itself a fact about the regime.

3. Unverified

What it is: a claim circulates widely, but no primary or reputable source could be found behind it.

On-screen rule: cut it, or name the uncertainty in plain English, stating what is claimed and that it could not be confirmed. Never state it as fact. The tag "[UNVERIFIED]" itself is a research-file marker and never appears in narration.

WORKED EXAMPLE, FROM THE COURSE

The claim that of roughly 8,000 Filipino films made, only about 3,000 survive, a 37 percent survival rate, is widely repeated. It traces to a single 2011 newspaper piece, and the researcher who has studied the archives most closely (Lim, 2024) says it is probably inaccurate. The course does not use it.

4. Perception, not incidence

What it is: an index or survey that measures reputation, sentiment, or belief about a thing, not a direct count of the thing itself.

On-screen rule: name what the number actually measures, every time it is used, in the same sentence.

WORKED EXAMPLE, FROM THE COURSE

The Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index gave the Philippines a score of 32 out of 100, ranked 120th of 182, in 2025. It is evidence of reputation, not a count of stolen pesos, and that caveat travels with the number every time it is spoken on screen.

The competency test this card serves (Lesson 0.2): for any number in this course, you can say which of these four states it is in, and what that state permits you to put on screen.