**Seeing Is Believing**

This scavenger hunt helps students understand how much we rely on reports of evidence and how seldom we get to experience the evidence itself.

**Materials**

You will need a different academic article for each student or group, preferably from different fields.

**Process**

1. Individually or in groups, have students read their article and pick out all of its reports of evidence. Students should then select one report to trace back to its source in the evidence itself.

2. Students must get as close as they can to the evidence itself and try to bring back a bit of the evidence, a photo or other recording of it, or at least notes from their own direct observation of it. If the evidence is such that students cannot get close to it, they have not failed, but they must write a brief statement explaining why not. They should be sure to indicate whether they could have gotten to the evidence itself if they had time and resources (the right equipment, access to an archive, travel, etc.) or whether they could not get to it under any circumstances.

3. Convene the class to discuss the varieties of evidence in their articles, which evidence they could get close to, and which evidence forced them to rely entirely on reports.