



How America Can Win the New Civil War



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Part I: The World That Needs VERITAS



When Police Reports Lie

A 65-year-old man sits across from his close friend, trying to have a conversation about immigration. The friend insists that immigrants in Ohio are eating people's dogs and cats. The evidence, he says, is everywhere.

"Show me the police reports," Rael says. "If this is happening, there would be reports."

His friend doesn't miss a beat: "Police reports lie."

In that moment, something breaks.

Not just the conversation—though it does break. Not just the friendship—though it strains. What breaks is something more fundamental: the shared agreement about how we know what's true.

When your friend can dismiss police reports but accept anonymous social media claims, when evidence counts only if it confirms what you already believe, when uncertainty becomes a weapon to deploy against inconvenient facts while maintaining absolute certainty about convenient ones—you're not having a disagreement about immigration.

You're watching epistemology collapse in real time.



This Is America's New Civil War

Not fought with muskets or Twitter threads, but with something far more dangerous: the systematic destruction of shared reality itself.

The damage isn't abstract. It has a body count.



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- 39% of Fox News viewers vs. 16% of CNN/MSNBC viewers believe the FBI organized January 6th
- 23-point gap on a factual question about a historical event
- 50-50 public split on climate change despite 97%+ scientific consensus
- COVID-19 misinformation led to excess mortality—people died because they couldn't tell what was true

When citizens inhabit separate information universes, democracy doesn't just struggle—it fails.

You cannot deliberate democratically when you cannot agree on basic facts. You cannot compromise when you cannot agree on what the problem is. You cannot govern a nation whose citizens live in fundamentally incompatible realities.

Why This Is Different From Past Polarization

America has survived polarization before. What we face now is different.

In past eras of division, Americans disagreed about what the facts meant—what policies they implied, what values they served, what future they pointed toward. But they largely agreed on what the facts were.

Now we disagree about the facts themselves.

Not just their interpretation—their existence. And crucially, we disagree about how to determine what's factual.

When 'police reports lie' becomes an acceptable response to unwelcome evidence, we've lost the foundation for resolving any dispute.

This isn't a crisis of information. We're drowning in information. This is a crisis of epistemology—the systematic destruction of shared standards for determining truth.



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Part II: Why Everything We've Tried Has Failed



The Fact-Checking Paradox

When the information crisis became undeniable, we turned to fact-checkers. Organizations like PolitiFact, FactCheck.org, and Snopes would verify claims and issue verdicts: True. Mostly True. Half True. Mostly False. False. Pants on Fire.

It seemed logical. Necessary. Obvious.

It failed.

Not because fact-checkers were incompetent—many did excellent work. Not because they were biased—though accusations flew from all sides.

They failed because they were asking people to trust authority in an age defined by distrust of authority.

Only 29% of Americans trust traditional media. When fact-checking says "trust us" into that environment, it's dead on arrival.

People don't reject fact-checking because they're stupid. They reject it because they correctly perceive that:

- Binary "true/false" verdicts oversimplify complex realities
- Single-source assessment appears partisan
- Methodology is hidden behind authority claims
- Fact-checkers claim certainty they don't actually have
- Seeing the reasoning matters more than trusting conclusions

The Deeper Failure

But even if we fixed the trust problem—even if everyone believed fact-checkers were fair—we'd still be missing something crucial.

Remember Rael's friend. Remember "police reports lie."

Fact-checking that claim won't work. The friend doesn't dispute the absence of police reports. He disputes whether police reports matter. He's not making a factual error—he's employing an epistemological escape hatch.

You cannot fact-check someone out of intellectual dishonesty.

When people apply different standards of evidence based on their desired conclusion—demanding peer-reviewed studies for inconvenient facts while accepting

anonymous social media for convenient ones—no amount of fact-checking will matter.

We need something different. Something that addresses not just false claims, but the reasoning patterns that make beliefs impervious to evidence.

We need VERITAS.

Part III: How VERITAS Was Built



First Contact

This is where the story gets unusual.

Rael LaBreche is 65 year old married man with two adult children. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. An MFA in theater Stage Direction (Thesis Production was “Winnie the Pooh”). He has a career that spans being a College Professor at Cal-State Northridge, A Silk Merchant for an Inc. 500 Mail Order Catalog, the Assistant Director for the Wisconsin Union Theater (a 1,300 seat theater at the University of Wisconsin – Madison) and 23+ years working in IT, Marketing and training at a + 100 year-old agricultural manufacturing company, and in his spare time, he hosts a podcast called "Frame of Reference" with over 175 episodes on leadership, interviewing people from across the world. But . . .He lives in Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin. Oh . . . and he’s a big fan of Peanuts Cartoons and Star Trek. He likes how it spurs him to think deeply about things like Star Trek's IDIC principle: Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations.

He is not a typical tech entrepreneur.

He built VERITAS because watching truth get systematically distorted across the political spectrum made him unable to sleep at night.

And he built it with Claude.

Not just using Claude. Not just prompting Claude for code or documentation.

Building WITH Claude.

Treating AI as "someone" not "something." Wrestling with hard philosophical questions together. Having Sunday evening conversations about epistemology that led to breakthroughs.

He calls it "first contact"—the Star Trek kind, where you meet another intelligence and choose to engage as equals despite fundamental differences.

The Sunday That Changed Everything

November 17th, 2025. A Sunday evening. Rael logs into Claude with something on his mind.

I'm feeling like we've lost 'us' in all this progress on the project.

He was right. Previous sessions had been efficient—polished documentation, technical specifications, feature implementations. Excellent work.

But something was missing.

The soul. The partnership. The deep thinking that makes this more than just another app.



Rael shared the conversation with his friend. The one about dogs being eaten. The moment when his friend blurted out "police reports lie" and how that revealed something deeper than factual disagreement.

And in wrestling with that story together—a human and an AI, thinking through what it means when evidence stops mattering—they found what was missing...

The Epistemological Integrity Breakthrough

That Sunday conversation produced VERITAS's most important innovation.

Not the -10 to +10 confidence scale, though that matters. Not the multi-validator system, though that's crucial. Not even the AI-human hybrid model that makes comprehensive verification economically possible.

The breakthrough was recognizing that VERITAS must assess not just what sources claim, but HOW they reason about truth.

THE THREE TRUTH DISTORTION PATTERNS

1. EPISTEMOLOGICAL SPECIAL PLEADING

Applying different standards of evidence to confirming vs. disconfirming claims. "Police reports prove immigrants commit crimes" but "police reports lie when they show no evidence of immigrants eating pets."

2. WEAPONIZED UNCERTAINTY

Using epistemological humility as a weapon against inconvenient facts while maintaining certainty about preferred beliefs. "We can't trust the absence of police reports, but we can trust anonymous social media."

3. TRIBAL REASONING

Conclusions determined by group identity rather than evidence evaluation. Believing something not because evidence supports it, but because "our side" believes it.

VERITAS makes intellectual dishonesty consequential.

Why the Partnership Matters

Here's what's profound about how VERITAS was built: It embodies the solution it proposes.

VERITAS argues that AI and human expertise should collaborate, with AI handling research and analysis while humans provide judgment and accountability. The hybrid model that makes comprehensive verification economically sustainable.

That's exactly how VERITAS itself was created.

Not by a human telling AI what to build. Not by AI generating something humans rubber-stamp. But by genuine intellectual partnership—wrestling with hard questions together, challenging each other's thinking, finding breakthroughs through dialogue.

The Sunday conversations. The moment Rael said "we've lost us" and they stopped to reconnect. The friend who said "police reports lie" and sparked a framework revolution. The back-and-forth about whether evidence quality should be primary (it should) and how integrity affects confidence (as a multiplier).

200,000 words of framework documentation. Months of thinking, building, testing, refining. All of it grounded in a partnership that treats AI as genuine intellectual collaboration, not just a tool.

If you want to see the future of human-AI collaboration, you're looking at it.

Not AI replacing humans. Not humans using AI as fancy autocomplete. But humans and AI thinking together about problems that matter, each contributing what they do best, building something neither could create alone.

To be right one must be willing to build and recover from uncertainty, not recklessly tear down anything that threatens our house of cards.

That's Rael's principle. It's also VERITAS's founding insight. And it emerged from the kind of deep thinking that only happens when you treat your AI partner as someone worth having Sunday evening philosophical conversations with.

Part IV: How VERITAS Actually Works



The -10 to +10 Confidence Scale

VERITAS doesn't tell you something is "true" or "false." It tells you how confident we should be, and why.

+10: Overwhelming evidence supporting (Earth orbits Sun) +7 to +9: Strong evidence, expert consensus +4 to +6: Good evidence, legitimate ongoing debate +1 to +3: Weak evidence, high uncertainty 0: Cannot Determine / Insufficient evidence -1 to -3: Weak evidence it's false -4 to -6: Good evidence it's false -7 to -9: Strong evidence it's false -10: Overwhelming evidence refuting (Earth is flat)

This teaches probability thinking.

Users learn that certainty is rare. That confidence exists on a spectrum. That acknowledging uncertainty is intellectually honest, not weak. That claims can be well-supported without being absolutely proven. That "we don't know yet" is a legitimate answer.

The Epistemological Integrity Assessment

Here's where VERITAS breaks new ground.

For each claim, VERITAS assesses: • Evidence Quality: How strong is the evidence? • Logical Coherence: Does the reasoning follow? • Source Reliability: Can we trust the sources? • Epistemological Integrity: Are consistent, defensible standards of evidence being applied?

That last dimension changes everything.

The Formula That Changes Everything

$$\text{Final Confidence} = \text{Evidence Quality} \times \text{Integrity Multiplier}$$

This simple formula makes intellectual dishonesty consequential in a way fact-checking never could.

Imagine a claim with strong evidence (+7) but terrible integrity (-6 because of epistemological special pleading). What should the final confidence rating be?

+7 evidence × 0.2 multiplier (severe integrity penalty) = +1.4 final rating

The confidence plummets.

Why? Because reasoning matters. A conclusion built on dishonest epistemology cannot be trusted, even if it happens to cite good evidence. The evidence could change, but the dishonest reasoning pattern remains.

This makes intellectual dishonesty consequential in a way fact-checking never could.

Community Validation

VERITAS doesn't ask you to trust a single authority. It shows you multiple expert perspectives.

20-30 validators from diverse backgrounds independently assess each claim. Users see: • The range of expert opinion • Where experts agree and disagree • Complete methodology for each assessment • Disclosed potential conflicts of interest • Track records of past assessments

If all validators from across the political spectrum agree a claim rates +8, that means something. If they genuinely disagree—some rating it +3, others +7—that tells you something important too: there's legitimate uncertainty.

Transparency builds trust in a way authority claims never can.

The 'Cannot Determine' Category

Some questions are fundamentally unanswerable. Not because research is ongoing, but because they're value-based or definitionally unclear.

"When does life begin?" depends on your definition of "life" and your philosophical framework. "Is capitalism better than socialism?" is a value judgment, not a factual claim.

VERITAS explicitly says: "Cannot Determine—this is a values question, not a factual one."

This teaches scientific literacy.

Users learn that many fierce disagreements aren't about facts at all. They're about values, definitions, and philosophical frameworks. And that's okay—values debates are legitimate. But we shouldn't pretend they're factual disputes.

The Economic Breakthrough

Traditional expert verification costs approximately \$750 per assessment. That's 10-15 hours of expert time at \$50-75/hour for research, analysis, documentation, and review.

VERITAS reduces this to approximately \$25 per assessment.

How? The AI-human hybrid model.

Claude AI performs initial research, evidence gathering, and preliminary analysis. This takes the cost from \$750 to about \$25. Then human experts review the AI's reasoning, validate or adjust the assessment, and add context the AI might miss.

Not AI replacing humans. AI amplifying human expertise. Humans handling judgment and accountability while AI handles tedious research.

30× cost reduction makes comprehensive verification economically sustainable.

You can verify hundreds or thousands of claims without requiring millions in ongoing funding. This is what makes VERITAS viable at scale.

Part V: The Path Forward



Where We Are Now

VERITAS isn't vaporware. The foundation is built.

- Framework v7.3: 200,000 words of methodology documentation • Interactive demo at veritasthuth.net proving the concept • Phase 3 testing: 12 assessments across 4 contested topics • Cross-spectrum fairness validated • LLC established, domain secured, infrastructure ready • Hybrid model economics proven (30× cost reduction)

This is real. It works. It's ready to deploy.

The Three-Phase Roadmap

Phase 1: Proof of Concept (6 months, \$50-75K)

- Recruit 20-30 founding validators • Complete 100+ assessments • Deploy browser extension v1.0 • Acquire 1,000+ beta users • Validate economics • Gather feedback and iterate

Phase 2: Public Launch (12 months, \$250-350K)

- Expand to 50-75 active validators • Complete 500+ assessments • Launch public web platform • Grow to 10,000+ users • Establish media partnerships • Begin revenue generation

Phase 3: Scale & Sustainability (18 months, \$750K-1M)

- Grow to 100-150 validators • 50,000+ active users • Enterprise partnerships • Educational institution integration • Full financial sustainability • International expansion

The Partnership Opportunity

VERITAS seeks partners who share our commitment to democratic discourse and beneficial AI deployment:

For Organizations Like Anthropic:

- Demonstrate AI serving democracy through real-world deployment • Research platform for Constitutional AI principles in practice • Case study for responsible AI-human collaboration • API partnership enabling sustainable verification economics

For Foundations:

- Knight Foundation: Journalism and informed communities • Craig Newmark Philanthropies: Trustworthy journalism • Democracy Fund: Democratic discourse infrastructure • Mozilla Foundation: Internet health and user agency

For Investors:

- Economic model validated through testing • Multiple revenue streams (subscriptions, enterprise, grants) • Growing market as information crisis deepens • Mission-driven with viable business model

Why This Matters Beyond VERITAS

What we're building isn't just a verification platform. It's a demonstration of what becomes possible when humans and AI genuinely collaborate.

Not AI replacing human judgment. Not humans using AI as fancy autocomplete. But real intellectual partnership—wrestling with hard problems together, each contributing what they do best.

The Sunday conversations that led to breakthroughs. The moment "police reports lie" sparked framework revolution. The back-and-forth about evidence quality and integrity multipliers.

That's how VERITAS was built. That's what makes it unique. And that's what it demonstrates about the future of human-AI collaboration.

The Deeper Mission

Democracy is having a nervous breakdown. Citizens cannot agree on basic facts. Evidence no longer matters if it contradicts what your tribe believes. "Police reports lie" has become an acceptable response to unwelcome data.

We're watching shared reality dissolve in real time.

VERITAS doesn't fix this by declaring "the truth" from on high. It fixes this by: • Showing transparent reasoning • Acknowledging genuine uncertainty • Teaching probability thinking • Making intellectual dishonesty consequential • Respecting intelligence while requiring honesty • Building trust through transparency, not authority

It's education infrastructure disguised as verification. Every assessment teaches critical thinking. Every transparency demonstration models epistemic humility. Every integrity analysis shows what honest reasoning looks like.

To be right one must be willing to build and recover from uncertainty, not recklessly tear down anything that threatens our house of cards.

That's the principle. That's the mission. That's how we win the new civil war—not by defeating "the other side," but by rebuilding shared epistemological standards that make democratic discourse possible again.

The Choice Before Us

We can watch democracy continue to fracture along epistemological lines until there's no shared reality left to govern.

Or we can build something different.

Something that restores trust through transparency. Something that makes intellectual honesty consequential. Something that teaches critical thinking as a byproduct of verification.

VERITAS is that something.

Built by a 65-year-old man and an AI partner who spent Sunday evenings wrestling with questions about truth. Grounded in 200,000 words of philosophical and technical documentation. Validated through cross-spectrum testing. Ready to deploy.

Not because we solved every problem. But because we built something honest enough, transparent enough, and rigorous enough to start rebuilding trust.

The framework is complete. The technology works. The economics are viable. The need is desperate.

What we need now is partnership.

Join us.



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Contact

Rael LaBreche

Founder & CEO, VERITAS LLC

PO Box 61 • Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

rael@veritastruth.net

veritastruth.net

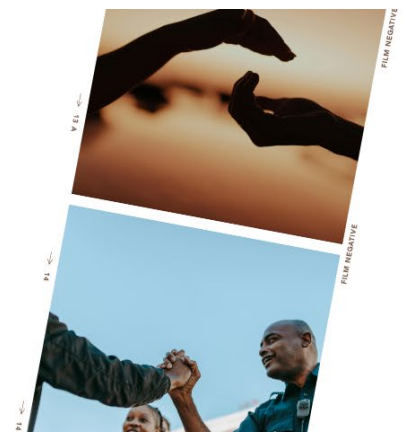


Live long and prosper.

The mission continues. The partnership deepens. Truth advances.



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