

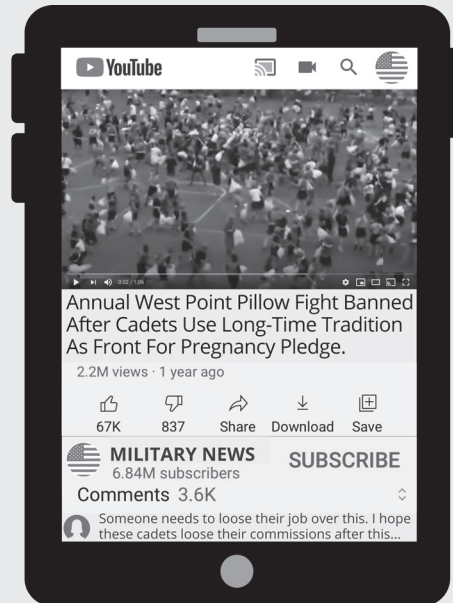
The case of . . . **The Pillow Fight Pact!**

The Scene

Troubled by data suggesting that enrollment at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point is in decline, first-year cadets took matters into their own hands.

As many as 60 first-year cadets (roughly 25% of the class), known as plebes, allegedly took part in a “pregnancy pact,” vowing to get their girlfriends pregnant before the end of the year so that their future children could attend West Point and boost enrollment. In a bizarre twist, the plebes decided to use the annual first-year cadet pillow fight as the arena for publicly declaring their intent.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, one cadet said, “The deal was that you had to draw blood at the pillow fight to show you were all in on the pact. If you didn’t give someone a bloody nose or a concussion, you didn’t try hard enough for your school.” Another revealed, “We were breaking the code of conduct, but we were following a higher one.”



Possible Clues (Questions to Think About)

- **Triggers:** How does this information make you feel about the people involved?
- **Access:** Does the app being used make it easier or more difficult to determine credibility?
- **Forensics:** Are there clues in the information itself that can help us determine credibility?
- **Motives:** If this story turns out to be false or misleading, what kind of person would create/spread it?

Is this story about giving West Point a baby boost true, or is this pillow full of feathers?