

Evidence Skills Checklist

Prepare evidence packets reviewers can actually use.

North Star Security

Proof of work needs evidence - not vibes. Use this checklist to prepare cybersecurity evidence for reports, portfolio projects, lab writeups, and interviews.

1. Evidence packet cover sheet

Question, alert, finding, or project objective:

System, user, source, or asset scope:

Evidence date or period:

Analyst / student:

Status: Complete / Partial / Unverified / Needs follow-up

2. Evidence quality checklist

For each investigation, lab, finding, or portfolio claim, collect:

- Screenshot, export, report, command output, log sample, or ticket
- Date captured or reporting period
- System, user, source, asset, or scenario scope
- What the evidence proves
- What remains unknown, assumed, or unverified
- Recommended next step or validation action
- Portfolio-ready summary, report section, or interview story note

3. Common evidence examples

Practice area Possible evidence

SOC investigation Alert details, auth logs, timeline, affected user/asset

Vulnerability writeup Scanner output, version details, proof, remediation note

Mini-range lab Scenario prompt, screenshots, log excerpts, final report

Portfolio project Objective, tools used, findings, evidence, lessons learned

Interview story Work performed, conclusion, evidence, impact, next step

4. Evidence note template

- > This evidence supports [question/finding] for [scope]. It was captured on
- > [date] from [system/source]. It shows [what the evidence proves]. Current
- > limitations are [unknowns/assumptions], with next validation step [action].

5. Red flags

- Screenshot has no date or context
- Evidence does not match the question
- Scope is unclear

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- Assumptions are hidden
- Claim is stronger than the evidence supports
- Next step is missing

North Star rule

If you cannot explain what the evidence proves, when it was captured, and what limitation it has, it is not ready for a portfolio, report, review, or interview.