



WHAT'S NEW?

WORKSHOP CONSPIRACY THEORIES

**WORK-
SHEET**

EXERCISE 1

COULD YOU COME UP WITH IT?

With your group, come up with a story with the same structure as that of the death of Paul McCartney.

1.	A (powerful) group ...	(popular band The Beatles)
2.	... has a secret plan ...	(covering up the death of Paul McCartney)
3.	... which is bad for the majority ...	(fans don't know that their idol is dead)
4.	... but beneficial for the (powerful) group.	(the remaining Beatles continue to make money)

Later, we will compare your story to the other groups' stories, but also to some pre-existing stories.

Once all the stories are told, we will vote: which stories did groups in the class make up? And which ones are real?

Try to make your story as believable as possible, so that others don't catch on!

Some inspiration:

- Possible powerful groups: a king and his servants, pop stars, the tech industry, ...
- Potential benefits for the powerful group: taking over power, hiding the truth, becoming extremely rich, ...
- Groups for whom such a plan could be bad: workers, students, vegetarians, bank directors, ...

Your story:

1.	A (powerful) group ...	
2.	... has a secret plan ...	
3.	... which is bad for the majority ...	
4.	... but beneficial for the (powerful) group.	

EXERCISE 2

KEEPING A SECRET

How long can you keep something secret?

Rank the 'secrets' below: which secret would be the easiest to keep? Which ones would be harder?

Also discuss the following questions:

- Should this be kept secret? Or should the truth be revealed?
- Why would someone who knows this secret, tell it to someone? Who would they tell it to?
- How long could this secret be kept? (A wild guess is fine)

RANK THE SECRETS IN THE TABLE BELOW:

- 1 Together with your brother, you once stole money from your mom.
- 2 You made lemonade with secret ingredients. The lemonade is sold all over the world.
- 3 You and your scientific team secretly use a group of 400 people for medical experiments. They are ill, but you don't give them real medicine. You want to see what the effect is.
- 4 Your organisation infiltrates the government. You want to have spies everywhere that tell you the government's plans. In order to sabotage the plans, you also steal documents.
- 5 You are the US president and you have an affair with your secretary.

Your story:

	The 'secret'	Should it come out?	Why would someone spill the secret?	How long could the secret be kept? (wild guess)
This will stay secret the longest				
This will come to light the soonest				

EXERCISE 3

WHY WOULD SOMEONE BELIEVE IT?

THE GREAT REPLACEMENT

According to this theory, vaguely defined 'Western elites' import non-Western immigrants (for example, Black people and Muslims) on a large scale. Their goal: 'replacing' the original white population in order to pave the way for a globalised world without borders or nation states. This allegedly puts the entire Western civilisation at risk.

Discuss and answer the following questions with your fellow students:

Which events in the world could make this theory believable?

-
-
-
-

Which events could make people doubt it?

-
-
-
-

Who would want to spread this theory (on purpose)?

-
-
-
-

EXERCISE 4

ONE THEORY IN CLOSE-UP

The video 'Princess Diana: Accident or Murder?' is a spectacularly produced video that questions the death of princess Diana, but that doesn't say what actually happened. The makers of the video also don't include an explicit disclaimer clarifying that the claims in the video are NOT based on scientific evidence. They are just unproven theories.

The video doesn't answer the question of what happened, and as an outsider it is impossible to find out the details.

The sources below provide information about the death of Diana. Which one is the most believable to you? Why?

Search for other sources and indicate how believable you think they are.

	Who is the author?	When was it published?	Believable because...	Unbelievable because...
France 24 'A tragic night': Princess Diana's fatal Paris crash, 25 years on www.france24.com/en/europe/20220830-a-tragic-night-princess-diana-s-fatal-paris-crash-25-years-on				
Princess Diana ABC News special bulletin from the night of her death in 1997 www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrPVcBSfLMo&feature=youtu.be				
RD.com - 10 Conspiracy Theories That Still Surround Princess Diana's Death www.rd.com/list/princess-diana-death-conspiracy-theories/				
CBC - Expert investigation reveals the truth about Princess Diana's death 25 years ago www.cbc.ca/documentaries/expert-investigation-reveals-the-truth-about-princess-diana-s-death-25-years-ago-1.6554844				
Geo News - Princess Diana's death 'not a real accident': 'Black saloon blocked her car!' www.geo.tv/latest/438014-princess-dianas-death-not-a-real-accident-black-saloon-blocked-her-car				

Which three sources do you consider the most trustworthy?

1.
2.
3.