

Fact vs. Fiction: Understanding Conspiracy Theories

Conspiracy Theories & Debunking · Answer Key · 7 Questions

1. What is a conspiracy theory?

- A) A proven secret plan by a small group.
- B) A story about a secret plot that explains an event, often without strong evidence.**
- C) A type of science fiction story.
- D) A debate about historical facts.

2. What does it mean to "debunk" a claim or theory?

- A) To spread it faster to more people.
- B) To prove that it is absolutely true.
- C) To show that it is false or exaggerated using facts and evidence.**
- D) To make it sound more mysterious and exciting.

3. When you are trying to find out if something is true, what is the most important thing to look for?

- A) How many people believe the story.
- B) Strong, verifiable evidence from reliable sources.**
- C) How exciting or shocking the story sounds.
- D) Who shared it on social media first.

4. Which type of source is generally considered most reliable for factual information?

- A) An anonymous post on a social media site.
- B) A website selling a product or making a strong claim.
- C) A reputable news organization or scientific journal with cited sources.**
- D) A chain email from an unknown sender.

5. A common characteristic of many conspiracy theories is that they often rely on:

- A) Multiple independent sources confirming the same facts.
- B) Strong scientific evidence and peer-reviewed studies.
- C) Speculation, anecdotes, and a lack of verifiable proof.**
- D) Official government reports that are widely accepted.

6. What is "critical thinking"?

- A) Only believing what your friends tell you.
- B) Questioning information, evaluating evidence, and forming reasoned judgments.**
- C) Automatically accepting everything you read online.
- D) Never changing your mind about anything.

7. People sometimes believe conspiracy theories because they:

A) Always have access to complete and accurate information.

B) Like simple explanations for complex events or feel a sense of control.

C) Have scientifically proven the theory to be correct.

D) Are never confused by new information or ideas.