Year 9: Non-Fiction Conspiracy Theories

Big Question: How do Non-fiction writers manipulate the reader?

Cultural Capital: How the media influences our judgements on incidents that happen, as well as people involved.

Key Skills (MUST be covered during this unit)		A key focus of this scheme of work will be to increase cultural capital and critical thinking skills. Pupils will be encouraged to develop and support their own thoughts and opinions through analysis texts and media. Pupils will learn about several different high-profile conspiracy theories and look at multiple views on each one. They will engage in discussions about logic, evidence, theories and sensationalism and explore ideas about bias and misinformation. Pupils will focus on developing their critical reading skills through the analysis of a range of non-fiction texts. Through the evaluation of these texts pupils will develop inference skills and learn how to write for task, audience and purpose. They will learn to cultivate and develop their own ideas and how to communicate these ideas through well-structured pieces of writing.
Reading	Writing	
Finding information and identifying quotes **Analyse how language impacts the reader/audience** **Identify and analyse features of language**	**Write for task, audience and purpose** **Develop ideas** **Organise writing/ Paragraphing/ Connectives/ Linking ideas** **Vocabulary choices** **Use a range of punctuation**	

Deep Learning Focus	Skills and Knowledge	Resources	Differentiation	Key Words
What is a conspiracy theory? **Do you trust everything you are told or do you think there is usually truth in conspiracies?**	**Connectives and linking ideas** **Inference and deduction** **Forming opinions** **Building vocabulary** **Summarising information from the text.** **The Illuminati** **Vaccine Objectors** **QAnon** **The Holocaust**	- The Illuminati Top 10 Craziest Conspiracy Theories About the ILLUMINATI - Bing video - Vaccine Objectors Five Covid-19 vaccine false theories - debunked - BBC Bitesize - QAnon QAnon: What is it and where did it come from? - BBC News - Holocaust denial https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qaNmGR0j9rM - Antisemitism Uncovered: Myth – The Holocaust Didn't Happen (adl.org)	**Support:** - Match the key vocabulary to the correct definition - Frayer models/ etymology - Success criteria - Knowledge organisers **Challenge:** - Group discussion - Use of additional texts to explore ideas presented/ alternative interpretations - Exploration of how writers have been influenced by conspiracy theories presented eg. Dan Brown	Conspiracy Theory Susceptible Unsubstantiated Delegate Rivalry Circulate

What do conspiracy theorists believe was the motivation for faking the moon landing in 1969?	• Organise writing and paragraphing • Inference and deduction • Forming opinions • Selecting evidence • Summarising • Building vocabulary • What was the space race? • Can we form an opinion?	• Moon landing evidence text sheet Moon landings evidence.pdf The Space Race (1955-1975) - YouTube	**Support:** • Timelines • Film clips • Scaffolding, supporting selection of evidence • Differentiated groups when completing tasks. **Challenge:** • Diary entry as additional homework task to extend knowledge • Newspaper articles reporting Moon landing	Classified Conspiracist Obfuscate Paranormal
What kind of myths did people create about Area 51? Do aliens exist? **Checkpoint 1: Reading** **How is the Roswell incident presented as strange?** **Whole class feedback: Using rubrics, success criteria and model answer to support POW time.**	• Develop ideas and organise writing • Inference and deduction • Selecting evidence • Commenting on language • Building vocabulary • Comparison • What is area 51? • What was the Roswell incident?	• **Roswell incident report** • **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r95ZlqKVbL8&ab_channel=Collider** • **(watch from till 9:22 – skip 6. The extra-terrestrial highway)**	**Support:** • Scaffolding, supporting selection of evidence • Success criteria • Model answers to support • Additional support regarding identification of techniques – glossary/ knowledge organisers **Challenge:** • Independent annotations • Zoom on language techniques • Extended responses regarding the effect of the writer's choices.	Conversely Controversial Congress Secrecy
Why is it important to look for bias? What are the different theories surrounding 9/11? How do I structure an effective newspaper article? **Checkpoint 2: writing** **Write a newspaper article using the "9/11" article as a model:**	• Develop ideas and organise writing • Inference and deduction • Selecting evidence • Commenting on language • Building vocabulary • Comparison • Matching style to purpose • What is bias?	• 9/11 article 9/11: three hours of terror and chaos that brought a nation to a halt	World news	The Guardian • Bias article Bias Article.pdf	**Support:** • Scaffolding, supporting selection of evidence • Success criteria/ Model answers • Additional support regarding identification of techniques – glossary/ knowledge organisers	Catastrophic Hijacked Disarray Manipulate Duplicate

Write about the events of 9/11. **Self-assessment: Using rubrics, success criteria and model answer to support POW time.**	• **What happened in 9/11? What can we learn from this event?** • **Features of a newspaper article**		• Frayer models/ etymology • Planning sheets to support ideas **Challenge:** • Independent planning • Differentiated success criteria presenting increased levels of challenge.	
How and why can information spread easily? How does the media attempt to convince the reader? How might fake news have negative consequences for those involved?	• **Analysing organisation, presentation and structure of texts** • **Extracting information from the text** • **Identifying language and structural techniques** • **Organising ideas in a logical sequence** • **Forming judgements based on information** • **Evaluating information and the impact this has on the reader.** • **Fake news**	• Tupac Shakur Weirdest Tupac Shakur conspiracy theories - body doubles, Illuminati and Fidel Castro - Mirror Online • Princess Diana Diana the crash : the real reason - Bing video • Steve Jobs Conspiracy theorists claim Steve Jobs is ALIVE and hiding in Egypt as Apple founder's barefoot lookalike is snapped – The Sun • Avril Lavigne's conspiracy theory Article planning sheet.pdf	**Support:** • You tube videos • Differentiated groups • Focused questions to support analysis of texts- breaking down the main question. **Challenge:** • Differentiated success criteria – using rubric to support	Credible Mimic Paranoia Scandal Convey Illustrate Diction Sensationalised Perception
Checkpoint 3: Spoken Language Presentation: Is fake news an inevitable part of society? Why? **Teacher assessed using rubrics: Additional questions to be used to determine understanding of the characters and plot.**	• **How media influences the public** • **How writers use sensationalised 'facts' to manipulate the reader's perceptions.**	• Why fans think Avril Lavigne died and was replaced by a clone named Melissa	Celebrity	The Guardian		