

Guidelines to counteract conspiracy discourse

Objective is to maintain a discussion ruled by logics and reason, and at least to introduce doubt.

1	Avoid engaging directly with counter-arguments. Don't try to convince immediately. It is important that the learner can develop what he thinks. It creates a space for dialog where he will feel confident. Only when you have strengthened this link, you will be able to use factual elements to question the learner and make him react.	
2	Use questions more than statements. As far as possible base your questions on facts. The objective is to have the learner arguing to try to consolidate his opinion. You need to identify the argumentation keys used in order to detect weaknesses so that you can slowly and politely drive him to reconsider his position. Through your questions, you must show that you are sincerely interested by his opinion and that you are not judging him.	
3	Some controversies are only political constructions elaborated by using the strength of social media. They can give the impression of a spontaneous movement while it is almost absent from the society. The way it has been constructed can be explained.	
4	Ask what are the sources of the information. A false information is often related to the weakness of the sources used or to the absence of legitimacy from the authors. All information available on internet don't have the same value.	
5	It is possible to use a humoristic tone, possibly absurd, without mocking the learner himself. Absurdity can be underlined through images or facts. They can start to raise doubts in the learner's mind.	
6	Remind that the truth is often much more complex than what we think. Sometimes, it is difficult to intervene in a debate because of a lack of knowledge. It can be risky and complicate the exchanges. Not knowing everything, not having an opinion on everything is a coherent and legitimate attitude.	
7	As far as possible, deconstruct the generalisations. A situation lived is not always and everywhere true.	
8	Tell the learner that both you can look for more information and continue the discussion later.	
9	Use concrete facts to show the over-estimation of some phenomena.	
10	Explain that conspiracy theories do not bring anything new. They are the same well-known ideas repeated again since the 20s.	
11	Always react to words related to conspiracy having in mind that the learner is not of bad faith. Usually they believe in conspiracy because they feel worry and lack confidence.	
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