

UNIT 4 : Somebody told me

Citizenship and virtual world: people rely a lot on medias to learn and get some informations. Yet new medias have brought new beliefs.

How are conspiracy theories fueled by the medias?

1) The Panic Broadcast : MP3 n66 P119 : écoute en classe : ambiance, type de document, recherche d'info
2nd extrait : souligné les incohérences: Nous sommes en 1938 : avion en direct (???)

2) travail sur les fronts pages des magazines, manuel p119

Orson Welles' infamous 1938 radio program did not touch off nationwide hysteria. [...]

How did the story of panicked listeners begin? Blame America's newspapers. Radio had siphoned off advertising revenue from print during the Depression, badly damaging the newspaper industry. So the papers seized the opportunity presented by Welles' program to discredit radio as a source of news. The newspaper industry sensationalized the panic to prove to advertisers, and regulators, that radio management was irresponsible and not to be trusted. [...]

From these initial newspaper items on Oct. 31, 1938, the apocryphal¹ apocalypse only grew in the retelling. A curious (but predictable) phenomenon occurred: as the show receded in time and became more infamous, more and more people claimed to have heard it. As weeks, months, and years passed, the audience's size swelled to such an extent that you might actually believe most of America

was tuned to CBS that night. But that was hardly the case.

[...] The night the program aired, the C.E. Hooper ratings service telephoned 5,000 households for its national ratings survey. "To what program are you listening?" the service asked respondents. Only 2 percent answered a radio "play" or "the Orson Welles program," or something similar indicating CBS. None said a "news broadcast," according to a summary published in Broadcasting. In other words, 98 percent of those surveyed were listening to something else, or nothing at all, on Oct. 30, 1938. This miniscule

The fake news that can be found on the Internet

- scientists have cloned a dinosaur
- the world is going to go dark for 6 whole days
- several young celebrities died (Beyonce, Justin Bieber, Miley Cyrus)
- those created as a joke (because people are bored)
- those that are deliberately posted to trick us
- you can lose weight by eating a chocolate bar a day

The reasons why there is so much fake news

- to make money
- to make people think differently about something / someone

The solutions imagined by companies and social media sites

- attempting to sort the fake news from the real ones
- posting warnings alongside fake reports
- Google and Facebook try to prevent fake news sites from being able to make money through ads.

What people should do to spot fake news

- do not just read the headlines
- check the source (is it a reliable one?)
- make sure it is a normal news story (not a satirical one, not sponsored by business, not written as someone's opinion)
- always question what you read and what you're told

The news story at the end of the video

- Kanye West is running for president and called himself a god. It seems to be fake but it is real!

3) vidéo p 120 manuel
faire faire repérage thème principaux et tableaux ou prise de note :

- The fake news that can be found on the Internet
- the reason why there are so much fake news
- the solutions imagined by companies and social media sites
- what people should do to spot fake news
- the news story at the end of the video

3) travail manuel p 120 : difference mis / disinformation celles transmises dans l'intention de tromper le lecteur (disinformation) et celles qui contiennent des erreurs ou des inexactitudes dont l'auteur n'est pas conscient ou dont le but n'est pas de tromper le lecteur mais qui peuvent malgré tout l'induire en erreur

(misinformation). Elles sont classées en 7 sous-catégories. On pourra amener les élèves à constater que le terme « fake news » est trop général et ne reflète pas assez précisément l'intention de l'auteur qui a posté ces informations

which is more dangerous ?

go to <https://www.snopes.com/> and introduce us to a fake news whether mis / disinformation => décortiquer la fake news, pourquoi vous avez aimé ou pas.

4) a) Work on Info Wars (doc 4 à remettre intro et découper texte) puis manuel p 121 (doc 5)

=> introduction of Alex Jones and Info Wars, reaction to each fake news

=> what's his purpose ? Influence (Trump)

b) why would people believe him ? → text p 121

5) Belief in conspiracies : travail de repérages / image => focus on some of them

a) Moon Landing Fact checking

<https://view.genial.ly/5ef1ca4f4a737d0d34d2ead0/interactive-image-image-interactive>

finir sur travail image lune : utilisation à des fins de propagandes : drapeau vers l'ouest + machines + astronaute tourné vers l'ouest

b) Roosevelt : texte p124 + photo

c) The Philadelphia Experiment p125

DST : + Greta Thunberg photo vieille de 121 années

<https://heavy.com/news/2020/06/mary-jo-laupp-tik-tok-trump-tulsa-crowd-size/>

Doc 1 : script :

Extrait 1 : 9'20

FADE IN PIANO PLAYING) ANNOUNCER TWO: Ladies and gentlemen, here is the latest bulletin from the Intercontinental Radio News. Toronto, Canada: Professor Morse of McGill University reports observing a total of three explosions on the planet Mars, between the hours of 7:45 P. M. and 9:20 P. M., eastern standard time. This confirms earlier reports received from American observatories. Now, nearer home, comes a special announcement from Trenton, New Jersey. It is reported that at 8:50 P. M. a huge, flaming object, believed to be a meteorite, fell on a farm in the neighborhood of Grovers Mill, New Jersey, twenty-two miles from Trenton. The flash in the sky was visible within a radius of several hundred miles and the noise of the impact was heard as far north as Elizabeth. We have dispatched a special mobile unit to the scene, and will have our commentator, Carl Phillips, give you a word description as soon as he can reach there from Princeton. In the meantime, we take you to the Hotel Martinet in Brooklyn, where Bobby Millette and his orchestra are offering a program of dance music.(SWING BAND FOR TWENTY SECONDS . . . THEN CUT)

Extrait 2 : 31'09

COMMANDER: Army bombing plane, V-8-43, off Bayonne, New Jersey, Lieutenant Voght, commanding eight bombers. Reporting to Commander Fairfax, Langham Field . . . This is Voght, reporting to Commander Fairfax, Langham Field . . . Enemy tripod machines now in sight. Reinforced by three machines from the Morristown cylinder . . . Six altogether. One machine already crippled. Believed hit by shell from army gun in Watchung Mountains. Guns now appear silent. A heavy black fog hanging close to the earth . . . of extreme density, nature unknown. No sign of heat ray. Enemy now turns east, crossing Passaic River into the Jersey marshes. Another straddles the Pulaski Skyway. Evident objective is New York City. They're pushing down a high tension power station. The machines are close together now, and we're ready to attack. Planes circling, ready to strike. A thousand yards and we'll be over the first -- eight hundred yards . . . six hundred . . . four hundred . . . two hundred . . . There they go! The giant arm raised . . . (SOUND OF HEAT RAY) Green flash! They're spraying us with flame! Two thousand feet. Engines are giving out. No chance to release bombs. Only one thing left . . . drop on them, plane and all. We're diving on the first one. Now the engine's gone! Eight . . . (PLANE GOES DOWN)

doc 2 :



doc 3 : vidéo p 120

doc 4 : **Info Wars : Alex Jones**

After years of public pressure, conspiracy theorist [Alex Jones](#) was recently [largely barred from the world's largest social media platforms](#).

Jones has spent [more than two decades](#) developing his own kind of shocking and dangerous brand of storytelling, including calling the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks an "inside job" perpetrated by the U.S. government. He and his followers pass off these narratives as truth-telling, despite lacking sufficient evidence. Thanks to sales of his dubious nutritional products, Jones has turned his venture into a lucrative business model, earning more than \$20 million in revenues annually in recent years, according to court documents.

Now, however, Jones, 44, faces a reckoning, as many of the platforms that drove his success — most notably YouTube — have cut him off. The media emperor who President [Donald Trump](#) once said had an "amazing" reputation faces the largest setback of his career.

Below are 4 of his most outrageous and disturbing theories.

The government has 'weather weapons'

Jones doesn't just believe that secretive forces are at work to control people's minds: He has also warned, for years, about government efforts to control the weather to wreak havoc on unsuspecting citizens.

In a 2013 broadcast, Jones warned that "of course there's weather weapon stuff going on," according to a [transcript](#) produced by Media Matters, a left-leaning watchdog organization. "We had floods in Texas like fifteen years ago, killed thirty-something people in one night. Turned out it was the Air Force."

Jones acknowledged the existence of "natural" tornadoes, but insisted that a May 2013 tornado that killed two dozen people and left more than 200 injured may have been orchestrated by the government, which he said "can create and steer groups of tornadoes."

In a [broadcast](#) this summer, Jones maintained that "there is weather-modification going on."

"They tell you about the stuff you know about, GPS and all of that. But when it comes to controlling the weather, they don't. But it's in all the trade publications, the university publications. It's all there, and that's my frustration," he said.

Chemicals in the water are turning frogs gay

One of Jones' most notorious conspiracy theories is that the government is using chemicals in order to turn people gay, using a mysterious "gay bomb" devised by the Pentagon.

"The reason there's so many gay people now is because it's a chemical warfare operation, and I have the government documents where they said they're going to encourage homosexuality with chemicals so that people don't have children," he said on his broadcast in 2010, [according](#) to NBC News.

Five years later, the theory took a turn. In a rant that has since become a meme and a line of t-shirts, Jones said he didn't like the government "putting chemicals in the water that turn the friggin' frogs gay."

"The majority of frogs in most areas of the United States are now gay," Jones said in 2017. The claim was without evidence.

In 1994, a government lab did request funds to pursue the development of a weapon that would turn enemy combatants gay, though the project was quickly shelved and no such weapon was developed. A 2013 [report](#) in Gizmodo notes that the same lab also requested funding for "bad-breath bombs, flatulence bombs and bombs designed to attract swarms of stinging insects to enemy combatants," noting that "the gay bomb is certainly the most novel."

The Sandy Hook shooting was staged

One of the few conspiracy theories that has led to real consequences for Jones is his claim that the 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School that left 26 dead, including 20 children between six and seven years old, was a hoax that employed so-called "crisis actors."

Jones claimed that the shooting was "completely fake" and staged in order to promote more restrictive gun control policies. Earlier this year, families of children who were killed in the shooting sued Jones for defamation, specifically citing comments he made in an April 2017 broadcast titled "Sandy Hook Vampires Exposed." Eight families have sued Jones, claiming that his reports on the Sandy Hook massacre have caused them immense personal pain and led his followers to harass them.

After originally calling the shooting a "hoax," Jones later said that he believed it "really happened" but insisted that the families suing him were agents of the Democratic Party.

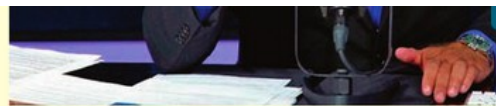
Alex Jones's Bogus Coronavirus Cures

Surfing on the Covid 19 crisis, Jones's Infowars store sells hundreds of products, from "nutraceuticals" to "tactical pens" to "survival food" (dried beans and the like, perfect for stocking a bunker). For the past few weeks, nearly every food item has been sold out. A note on the site read, "Our expanded team is focusing on and will deliver the tens of thousands of orders already in our queue as we work diligently through this national emergency together." But what he proposes now is a cure against the new Coronavirus, using colloidal silver.

Many of Jones's "health and wellness" products contain colloidal silver: SuperSilver Whitening Toothpaste, SuperSilver Wound Dressing Gel, ABL Nano Silver Gargle. Colloidal silver has only one known effect on the body—if you take too much of it, your skin might turn blue. Still, disaster-prepper types have long touted it as a cure for viral ailments, from H.I.V. to the common cold. "This stuff kills the whole SARS-corona family at point-blank range," Jones said in a live stream on March 10th. "It kills every virus." This is not true. On March 6th, the F.D.A. had issued an open letter, warning, "There currently are no vaccines, pills, potions, lotions, lozenges or other prescription or over-the-counter products available to treat or cure coronavirus disease."

It's illegal to advertise products as a treatment or cure for human disease without reliable scientific evidence, which currently does not exist when for the pandemic that has killed more than 16,600 Americans, say the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Federal Trade Commission, both agencies admonishing conspiracy theorist Alex Jones for peddling phony cures for the [coronavirus](#).

Since launching his broadcast career, [Alex Jones] has become a multiplatform prophet of paranoia who sees diabolical plots in every turn of the news cycle.



[...] Jones, who loves to draw analogies to sci-fi classics like *Dune* and *Star Wars*, sees the 21st century as a kind of fanboy-fantasy landscape populated by three groups: a rebel alliance of liberty-loving patriots (his fans); masses of consumerist sheep (those who ignore him); and a sadistic elite (global bankers and their agents), forever tightening¹ the screws on the imperiled remnants² of human freedom.

[According to him] the New World Order³'s methods are many: manufactured economic crises, sophisticated surveillance tech and – above all – inside-job terror attacks that fuel exploitable hysteria. The endgame, Jones believes, is a mass eugenics operation that will depopulate the planet by poisoning our food and water with fluoride, radioactive isotopes and various futuristic toxic

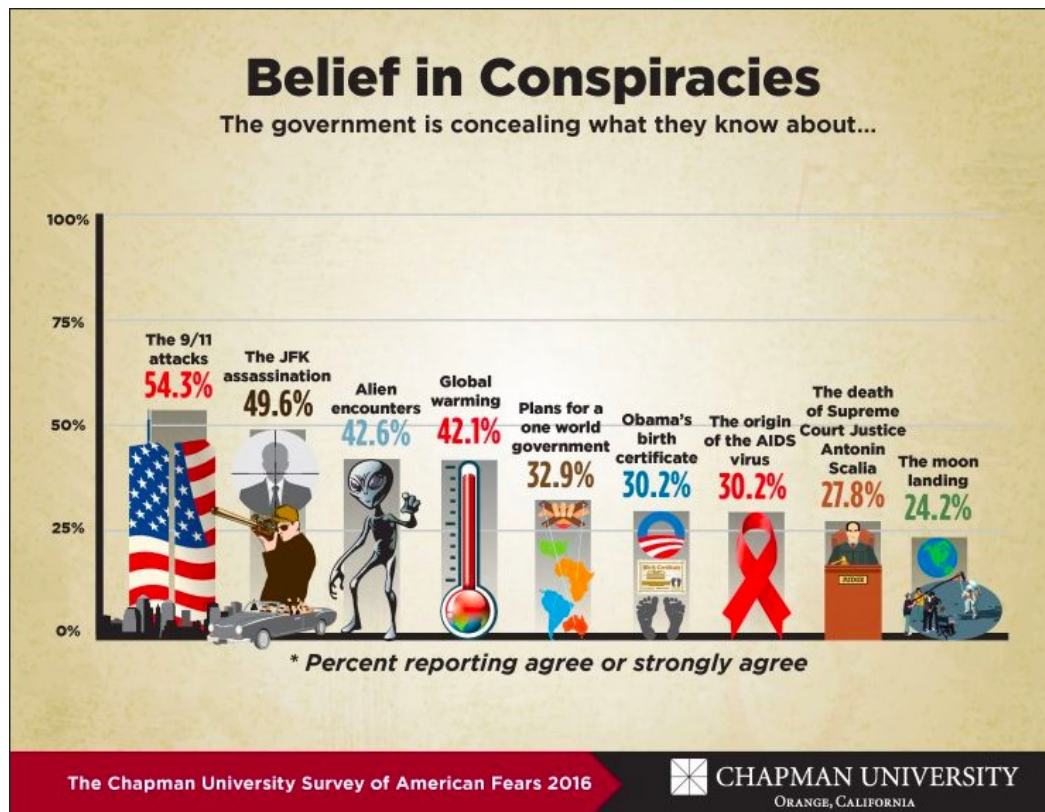
soups being engineered in New World Order laboratories.

[...] By disseminating such theories over the airwaves and online, where followers can get the word out faster than any film distributor, Jones can draw a million viewers within days [...]. "In the past, such theories were circulated in booklets, books, public speeches and sermons," says Chip Berlet, who studies conspiracy culture [...]. "Jones reaches more people over the Internet than any conspiracy crank in U.S. history."

¹ resserer • ² vestiges • ³ A conspiracy involving very rich and powerful people plotting mass population reduction and a one world government.

Alexander Zaitchik, www.rollingstone.com, 17 March, 2011

doc 6 : manuel p 122



doc 7 :
<https://view.genial.ly/5ef1ca4f4a737d0d34d2ead0/interactive-image-image-interactive>



The Roswell UFO¹ incident took place in the U.S. in June or July 1947, when an airborne object crashed on a ranch near Roswell, New Mexico. Explanations of what took place are based on both official and unofficial communications. Although the crash is attributed to a secret

- 5 U.S. military Air Force surveillance balloon by the U.S. government, the most famous explanation of what occurred is that the object was a spacecraft containing extraterrestrial life. Since the late 1970s, the Roswell incident has been the subject of much controversy, and conspiracy theories have arisen about the event.
- 10 The United States Armed Forces maintains that what was recovered near Roswell was debris from the crash of an experimental high-altitude surveillance balloon belonging to what was then a classified (top secret) program named Mogul. In contrast, many UFO proponents maintain that an alien craft was found, its occupants were captured,
- 15 and that the military engaged in a massive cover-up. The Roswell incident has turned into a widely known pop culture phenomenon, making the name "Roswell" synonymous with UFOs. Roswell has become the most publicized of all alleged UFO incidents.

1 UFO /ju:efəʊ/: Unidentified Flying Object

www.mufon.com

The story goes that, during the chaos of World War II, a group of scientists working for the US navy were carrying out an experiment that could have altered the face of the battle completely: they were attempting to make a

- 5 warship invisible. The warship in question was the USS Eldridge, docked in the Philadelphia Naval Yard, and the experiment supposedly took place in October 1943.

A scientist named Dr Franklin Reno was said to be the mind behind the project, having taken inspiration from Einstein's unified field theory – and according to the

- 10 legend, it was a success. Not only was the ship rendered invisible, but in subsequent experiments, apparently teleported to another location 200 miles away and back again.

The experiment wasn't without its side-effects, however; sailors were said to have suffered from a range of ailments,

- 15 including nausea, mental trauma, invisibility and spontaneous combustion. It's even said that some sailors were found partly embedded in the structure of the ship itself.

For its part, the US navy has always denied that the Philadelphia experiment ever took place, but this has merely added to the claims that the incident was covered up. Despite repeated counter-claims that the experiment is a mixture of hoax and misheard information (the navy really were looking at ways of making ships undetectable to magnetic torpedoes

- 20 at the time, which could have somehow been misinterpreted as 'invisible'), the legend's endured, partly thanks to books like *The Philadelphia Experiment: Project Invisibility*.

The obvious question, though, is if the US navy managed to make a ship invisible so long ago, why hasn't this technology become widespread since? The supporters of the conspiracy would probably argue that the US navy uses invisibility all the time – we just can't see the evidence.



www.denofgeek.com

UNIT 4 : Somebody told me	
Citizenship and virtual world: people rely a lot on medias to learn and get some informations. Yet new medias have brought new beliefs.	
UNIT 4	How are conspiracy theories fueled by the medias?
At the end of the Unit, I will	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - know more about the relationship people entertain with medias - understand how fake news are spread - have read about the most famous conspiracy theories
What vocabulary will I need ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - medias - suspicion / interrogation
What grammatical structure will I need ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pluperfect - obligation - probability
What documents will be used ?	<p>1- The Radio Panic Broadcast 1a- Orson Welles Radio broadcasted play The War of the Worlds, 1938 1b- Scripts 1d- Front pages Magasins 1938 1e- The « War of the Worlds » panic , <i>Slate.com</i>, 28 / 10/ 2013 (manuel p 119)</p> <p>2- mis and dis-information 2a- vidéo learning about fake news (manuel p 120) 2b - the difference between mis- and disinformation (manuel p120) 2c- https://www.snopes.com/ (debunking fake news)</p> <p>3-The Danger of Conspiracy theories 3a- Alex Jones and Info wars (4 famous theories) 3b- Alexander Zaitchik on Alex Jones, <i>Rollingstone.Com</i>, March 2011 – manuel p 121 3c- Chapman University Survey of American Fears 2016</p> <p>4- famous Conspiracy theories explained 4a- Moon Landing Facts (genially) 4b1- The Roswell UFO Incident, <i>Mufon.com</i> (manuel p 124) and 4b2 4c- The Philadelphia Experiment, <i>denofgeek.com</i> (manuel p125)</p>
What will I learn about ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how conspiracy theories have always existed - how to spot fake news - how difficult it is to educate people to medias
Final Task : EE	Write an article about a fake news. You will need to make it as realistic and catchy as possible !

Instruction for your Final Task

- 1) You will have an hour full to write an article in class,
- 2) Make sure people will want to read it
- 2) Go straight to the point : give a title
- 3) You may illustrate it : prepare beforehand some illustration if you wish to

4) write about a story people could believe in

5) In the end, give your opinion : are you trying to mislead people or do you actually believe in what you are writing ?

UNIT 4 : Somebody told me → B2			
sujet : Write an article about a fake news. You will need to make it as realistic and catchy as possible !			
Attentes :	Qualité du travail	Richesse de la langue: grammaire et syntaxe	Richesse de la langue: lexique
200 mots 0.5	Fake news développée de façon crédible 1	Il m'arrive de faire quelques fautes qui « sonnent », j'utilise un peu trop souvent les mêmes structures grammaticales, je sais me servir des modaux et j'essaie de complexifier mes phrases 5 B1-> B2	Mon vocabulaire est assez élargi pour m'exprimer, je n'ai pas toujours remobilisé du vocabulaire, il m'arrive de me répéter 5 B1-> B2
Opinion clairement formulée 0.5	Des détails ont été apportés rendant les faits réalistes / 2	Mes phrases sont assez simples, je fais des erreurs mais je sais aussi me faire comprendre. J'utilise un peu trop souvent les mêmes structures de phrases 3 / 4 B1	Il me manque du vocabulaire pour être fluide, je me répète parfois, je n'ai utilisé que très peu le vocabulaire vu en classe 3 / 4 B1
Style journalistique 0.5	Développement intéressant /2	C'est parfois difficile de me comprendre, ou mon anglais est un peu trop basique, je ne maîtrise peu de structures grammaticales 1 / 2 A2 -> B1	J'ai un vocabulaire limité, je me répète souvent, je réinvestis peu le vocabulaire vu en classe 1 / 2 A2 -> B1
Une fake news traitée 0.5	Reprise des ressorts vendeurs des fake news /1	C'est difficile de me comprendre, ou mon anglais est vraiment trop basique, je ne maîtrise que très peu de structures grammaticales 0.5 A2	j'ai un vocabulaire très limité, je me répète souvent, je réinvestis très peu le vocabulaire vu en classe 0,5 A2
Originalité +1	Éléments personnels /2	Je fais trop de fautes pour être compris, même avec si mon interlocuteur fait les efforts nécessaires pour 0	Mon vocabulaire est basique, je ne réinvestis pas le vocabulaire vu en classe 0