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This is a graded discussion: 10 points possible

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## D3 Discussion: Conspiracy Theories, Pseudo Science, vs Science?

88

**Conspiracy Theories, Pseudo Science, vs. Hard Science:** In the late 1500's to mid 1600's the Catholic Church controlled Europe. Copernicus was afraid to publish his results and Galileo was imprisoned by the Catholic Church for his "radical" ideas. Fortunately, today scientists don't get executed for gathering data and coming to conclusions based on proper observations (*they get "CANCELED" instead, which professionally is worse*). However, there is still tension between science and politics, and there are still people who believe conspiracy theories, and refuse to believe the results of science.

Please write a short paragraph (using correct spelling and grammar, please!) in which you take a look at a **major issue of today** in which the science is very clear, but certain political and ideological groups may be denying the hard, scientific evidence. Open discourse on controversial subjects is critical in the progression of science. Please be respectful of all other's views and opinions. Use science to make your point. To get full credit please include the following:

**a. State the issue clearly, in one or two sentences. (3 pts.)**

**b. Describe some of the evidence from science which refutes the false narrative, and cite where you read about this evidence. Be careful to use reputable sources! (7 pts.)**

### What to write:

In your discussion post, (a) answer the questions given above with a blank line between each, then (b) ASK one question which your fellow students will answer, then (c) ANSWER a question from another student's post.

Here is an example of how to ask a question. Write out the word QUESTION all in CAPS so that your fellow students will clearly see what your question is.

QUESTION: "Do you think....?" or "How would you find...." or "Can you explain....?" etc...

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(https://**Maya Tritt-Vartabedian** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/274216>)

Sep 7, 2022

Climate change is a clear issue that impacts human lives. The increasing temperatures around the globe can cause issues such as drought, food accessibility, human health, and the environment. Though climate change is very real, many conservative political groups deny its existence.

From the information provided by NNOA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), we can see that Global temperatures rose about 1.98° (1.1°C) from 1901 to 2020 and that it has also caused a rise in sea level and unpredictable weather patterns. NNOA also mentions how climate change is increasing due to human use of fossil fuels which is one of the main reasons conservative political groups deny its existence for economic reasons.

What is a possible solution for the discourse on the topic of climate change between academics and politicians and what can we do to make the point of why we should care about climate change more clear?

Edited by **Maya Tritt-Vartabedian** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/274216>) on Sep 7 at 9:34pm

 Reply  
(http**Paige Halter** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/428140>)

Sep 13, 2022

I don't know if there are any set solutions to the debate between the scientists and money hungry politicians. Until we have someone in power who is willing to make drastic changes and crack down on those who are corrupt, it is up to the people to speak out about these issues and try and educate others. We should continue to protest and research as much as possible to get others to see the real dangers of what is happening with our climate. We should care because the future generations are depending on us to try and fix what has been broken before it is too late. The Earth and these future generations will suffer greatly if we don't.

 Reply  
(http**Vandela Blake** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/408911>)

Sep 15, 2022

A possible solution to educating politicians on scientist's climate change findings would maybe testimonies from scientists to politicians or required education for politicians before signing laws, etc. That could be a way to educate politicians on scientific findings.

 [Reply](#)**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

We have had satellites studying the Earth for over 30 years, collecting data on global warming. We know a lot about it now and it's been determined that human activity correlates heavily with global warming. This is not speculation, but fact.

 [Reply](#)**Paige Halter** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/428140>)

Sep 13, 2022


One of the main issues that came to mind for me was the misinformation that was spread during the pandemic. Scientists and doctors gave clear expectations of what we needed to do to keep ourselves and others safe from the corona virus and politicians and online groups such as Q-Anon preached misinformation that caused people not to follow recommended precautions.

Thousands of studies proved the Covid vaccine safe and effective and the mRNA technology used in the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines has been in development for over 15 years. (Lisa Maragakis, M.D., M.P.H, 2022) The CDC also states that a cloth mask lowered odds of testing positive by 56%, medical masks lowered odds by 66% and respirator masks such as N95 lowered odds by 88%.

DO YOU THINK THE MASK MANDATE WORK EFFECTIVELY IN YOUR HOMETOWN?

Sources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7106e1.htm>   
(<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7106e1.htm>)

<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/is-the-covid19-vaccine-safe>  (<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/is-the-covid19-vaccine-safe>)

 [Reply](#)

**Steven Tait** (<https://canvas.sbcc.edu/courses/48863/users/31232>)

Sep 14, 2022



I don't believe the mask mandate worked effectively in my home town as there was not a clear line drawn in when and where masks were required. There would be many businesses requiring the use of a mask however there were also many who didn't, or just didn't bother to enforce it. And those who only wore masks when required and would proceed to go places not wearing one would void any potential prevention of spread.

[← Reply](#)**Vandela Blake** (<https://canvas.sbcc.edu/courses/48863/users/408911>)

Sep 15, 2022



Why do you think people are so against wearing masks? Is it because of personal discomfort or do people believe that masks really don't work, even though they have been a part of disease prevention in our medical field for a long time?

[← Reply](#)**Beverlyn Amoh** (<https://canvas.sbcc.edu/courses/48863/users/252191>)

Sep 18, 2022



Hi Paige, great post!

To a certain extent, yes, I think the mask mandate worked. I believe that with a lot of people, wearing the mask came down to being uncomfortable with breathing in their own air and wearing a piece of cloth over their face. A lot of people were just overall uncomfortable with a new concept in general but I feel like it helped reduce the spread of Covid.

[← Reply](#)**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbcc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022



It's human nature to fight change. But overall, statically, mask wearing saved many many lives.

[← Reply](#)



**Jayevin Abad** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/135325>)

Sep 18, 2022

I don't believe the mask mandate worked well in my hometown because most of the people refused to wear a mask.

← [Reply](#)



**Barret Kelly** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/399463>)

Sep 18, 2022

Hi Paige,

I am from Los Angeles and I think the mask mandate worked somewhat efficiently however there was a lot of misinformation spread about the pandemic and it was very hard to determine what information was correct and everyone believed that they had the correct view on the subject. The mask mandate did seem to prevent some of the spread of the pandemic but most of the people in Los Angeles that I know have gotten covid at some point even with all of the mask mandates that were supposed to prevent it.

← [Reply](#)



**Sarah Bergseteren Strange** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/410835>)

Oct 16, 2022

Hi Paige!

Yes, I thought that the mask mandate worked effectively in my hometown.

Although Santa Barbara was never in one of the more extreme hotspots for Covid-19, I did notice that the number of people affected with this disease went down quite a bit as mask mandates became more enforced, along with more people getting themselves vaccinated.

Sarah B Strange

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Yes, the mRNA technology has been in place for many years, but the anti-vaxers created mistrust and fear about it. It works, and is a proven technology.

← [Reply](#)

 (https://**Steven Tait** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/31232>)

Sep 14, 2022

Global warming or climate change is a definitive global crisis. It effects everything from where we source our food and water to longevity of costal towns compared to rising water levels.

Thanks to research provided by NASA/GISS along with Climatic Research Unit and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, we can learn that just since the year 2000 we have gone through 19 of the hottest years to date. Due to these rising global temperatures our oceans levels are on the rise thanks to thermal expansion as well as the warmer ocean temperatures causing coral bleaching and further accelerating the melting of major ice sheets.

QUESTION: Why do you think it is that even with definitive factual evidence of global warming and its reasons for concern, do we still have large amounts of politicians/people who choose to give no credence to the issue?

 [← Reply](#) (http**Emma Lisle** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/411928>)

Sep 15, 2022

Hi Steven!

I also wrote about climate change and how its been speculated despite the evidence backing it. I believe that many people deny the concept of climate change because it counteracts with their own personal plans and the reality can be scary to accept. I also think that there can be political and social motivators behind these denials.

 [← Reply](#) (http**JP Boyle (He/Him)** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/414986>)

Sep 17, 2022

ANSWER:

Hey Steven, while it is quite evident that global warming is very real and that emissions are hurting/ breaking down our atmosphere creating higher temperatures leading to ice caps melting and rising water levels, there are still many people that believe that global

warming is no more than pseudoscience. I think that many politicians who speak out about global warming being pseudoscience is usually because of their ties with corporations. Usually these corporations produce a lot of waste and emissions that are harmful to the environment and if these politicians talk about how global warming is destroying our environment business will plummet for these corporations and these politicians will miss out on a lot of money. Others who don't believe in global warming is usually caused by misinformation.

← Reply



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

This is important misunderstanding. Global warming is a slow trend where the extremes get more frequent. So, the number of hot days has increased, that type of thing. Good point to make.

← Reply



**Vandela Blake** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/408911>)

Sep 15, 2022

When reading this prompt, the issue that came to mind was the Corona Virus Vaccine. The science of the Corona Virus vaccine showed that the vaccine helped with the spread and symptoms of the Corona Virus. People had an issue with the vaccine, though. I have a conservative christian family and all of my family members refused to get the vaccine because they believed that the vaccine negatively affected our DNA and that the effects of corona virus should be in "God's hands". In fact, my mother dragged me to multiple churches during the pandemic that actually preached these ideas. To me, it was mind boggling. I got my vaccine as soon as I could, as I believed in the science. This whole situation reminds me of the Galileo vs church scenario, how the church went against factual science.

Here is an article by the Mayo clinic, a premier hospital organization, about the positive effects of the vaccine in preventing Corona Virus. <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/in-depth/coronavirus-vaccine/art-20484859>

← Reply

**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022



I'm glad to hear that you made decisions based on your own understanding of the circumstances and taking into account science. Vaccines have saved more people than just about anything else. I find your comparison of the churches' rejection of masks similar to Galileo's experience very interesting. I had not thought of that, but it certainly has many parallels.

Reply

○

**Emma Lisle** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/411928>)

Sep 15, 2022



Climate change has been a very prevalent issue due to humans excessive use of fossil fuels and other environmentally damaging practices. While climate change (longterm weather and environment changes) can be natural, it has reached a defining moment in history where humans need to take action in order to save the Earth.

There have been many claims that climate change isn't real or that it's a hoax, but there is so much evidence provided by scientists over the years that disprove these false claims. According to NASA, CO2 levels have reached the highest they've been in at least 3 million years. In a *New York Times* article the author states that, "Numerous studies have found that more than 90 percent of scientists who study Earth's climate agree that the planet is warming and that humans are the primary cause." These examples are just a small glimpse into the multitude of studies done that have proven the dangers of climate change.

QUESTION: Do you think that climate change is a prevalent issue and that there is enough research supporting it?

Reply

○

**Cassidy Barba** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/408964>)

Sep 17, 2022



I do not personally agree that climate change is a complete hoax, but sometimes I have my doubts about it. Although climate change is hard to see within the span of ten years,



but with the recent heat wave we had, people were saying it was record breaking, but at the same time for five years in a row I had seen the same heat numbers come up. However, I see things about other areas of our Earth such as Antarctica melting, and animals going extinct due to poor climate changes and adjustments.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

About climate change, this is why many have a hard time with it, it's slow and hard to see in "real time". It's not so much about "how hot" it gets on a particular day, but rather, how many hot days there are. Metrics that show the long term effects of global warming are glacier retreats, ice pack in mountains, ice bergs breaking off and melting, etc.

← [Reply](#)



**Daniel Ghorso** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/413172>)

Sep 17, 2022

Hey Emma,

I do believe that climate change is a huge issue that many more people should be aware of. For instance, many people believe this false and there can't be ways that the higher temperatures and environmental changes aren't hurting this world and the organisms living in it. When researching climate change you can see so much information supporting the issue and the global temperatures rise and how we as individuals can really help ultimately "save the earth". Overall, this is an issue that I can be more educated on and many others because of the hardships that many people face with this and how we educate ourselves to further understand the severity of this problem.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Many studies have shown the correlation between human activity and climate change. In fact, satellites have been taking measurements for over 30 years studying this exact question. A lot of information has been gathered. Studies have shown that indeed humans need to do something to mitigate the damage done.

[← Reply](#)**JP Boyle (He/Him)** (<https://canvas.sbcc.edu/courses/48863/users/414986>)

Sep 16, 2022

Obviously the first conspiracies came to mind were climate change, flat earth theory, and all the Covid-19 vaccine theories that are floating around the internet but the Theory that I am going to talk about today is the is a statement the Donald Trump made at a Republican fundraising event in 2019, but has also been voices by other doctors and anti-wind energy activist and that is that wind turbines cause cancer. During the fundraising event Trumps stated "If you have a windmill anywhere near your house, congratulations, your house just went down 75 percent in value. And they say the noise causes cancer", but does this really make any sense? In a study done by the NLM (National Library of Medicine) proving that people within a 10km radius of wind turbines may experience certain symptoms like lack of sleep and mental fatigue which many could get confused with other illnesses (even cancer). This is not the case for everyone, there has been shown that many farmers, etc have had no symptoms when living near a wind turbine. They proved that there is actually no real scientific evidence that backs up the correlation between cancer and wind turbines.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4900481/>

(<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4900481/>)

<https://www.verywellhealth.com/do-windmills-cause-cancer-5097380>

(<https://www.verywellhealth.com/do-windmills-cause-cancer-5097380>)

QUESTION: What are your thoughts on wind turbines causing cancer? Do you think that the illness symptoms caused by wind turbines can cause neurological damage that can eventually lead to some type of cancer?

[← Reply](#)**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbcc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

This is a great, new, and fresh example. I think there are probably numerous quotes from Trump that would keep conspiracy theorists busy.

[← Reply](#)**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbcc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

My understanding is that the two things of concern for health would be E&M exposure and noise. I have not heard of any credible evidence to indicate either is an issue with wind turbines, and of course, the benefits are great, that of renewable energy. So, it's sad to see a positive thing portrayed so negatively. There is another environmental concern though, that that's bird strikes. But recent advances in large slow moving blades has greatly reduced the bird strike risk.

← [Reply](#)

<https://>

**Cassidy Barba** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/408964>)

Sep 17, 2022

An issue that I would like to address in our world today is vaccinating children. This doesn't just go for children getting a COVID vaccine, but vaccines that we get growing up such as polio and HPV. There are groups of people who choose to vaccinate their children, and those who don't. A reason that science has proven to get your child vaccinated is simply that your child is less of a candidate to get whatever disease they are getting vaccinated for. For example, for children who are vaccinated with MMR, (which prevents measles, mumps, and rubella) they are less likely to get it, and for the past 50 years there has been a high decrease of infected children with this disease who are vaccinated and get boosted.

QUESTION: Have you been vaccinated for any other diseases other than COVID? If so, have you ever gotten the disease you had been previously vaccinated for?

← [Reply](#)

<http>

**Cassidy Barba** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/408964>)

Sep 17, 2022

Cite link: [https://medicals-services.nph.org/2015/09/02/why-are-childhood-vaccines-so-important/?gclid=CjwKCAjw4JWZBhApEiwAtJUN0F1HvVJ1joeWqKYcEQQSnE3qaZKIX-99Qz0K-VBnrq79E\\_FIlf9bmhoCXGUQAvD\\_BwE](https://medicals-services.nph.org/2015/09/02/why-are-childhood-vaccines-so-important/?gclid=CjwKCAjw4JWZBhApEiwAtJUN0F1HvVJ1joeWqKYcEQQSnE3qaZKIX-99Qz0K-VBnrq79E_FIlf9bmhoCXGUQAvD_BwE) ↗  
[https://medicals-services.nph.org/2015/09/02/why-are-childhood-vaccines-so-important/?gclid=CjwKCAjw4JWZBhApEiwAtJUN0F1HvVJ1joeWqKYcEQQSnE3qaZKIX-99Qz0K-VBnrq79E\\_FIlf9bmhoCXGUQAvD\\_BwE](https://medicals-services.nph.org/2015/09/02/why-are-childhood-vaccines-so-important/?gclid=CjwKCAjw4JWZBhApEiwAtJUN0F1HvVJ1joeWqKYcEQQSnE3qaZKIX-99Qz0K-VBnrq79E_FIlf9bmhoCXGUQAvD_BwE)

[← Reply](#)**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbcc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Vaccination was a big issue even before Covid showed up. But of course, with Covid, the issue was propelled to the forefront. Here's an interesting point. Cuba has a very very high rate of vaccination. The reason is that they were undeveloped until recently, and they REMEMBER what life is like without vaccinations, where mothers die during child birth due to infection, infant mortality was high, and kids died of horrible preventable diseases. For them, it's a no brainer. Vaccinations save lives.

[← Reply](#)**Daniel Ghiorso** (<https://canvas.sbcc.edu/courses/48863/users/413172>)

Sep 17, 2022

One of the main issues that we see is how the Coronavirus has affected the world over the past two years. We see specifically in 2020 during the presidential campaign when Democratic candidate Joe Biden and republican Donald Trump were giving separate political views which led to their parties having questions on the vaccine and if they should get it.

From reading many articles, I got information from Hopkins medicine where they explained the false narratives and truths about the covid vaccine. For example, it explains how many may people think if you had covid you won't need the vaccine because you're "immune", however that is false. Studies indicate that "if you have had covid in the past and are not already vaccinated, your risk of getting covid doubles, rather than those who may have been exposed but are vaccinated" (Gabor David Kelen). There are many facts and myths floating around the world specifically at the height of the virus we had presidential candidates disagreeing which led to people not agreeing and believing in the vaccine which ultimately looks like it was easier to spread because of this.

QUESTION: Do you think the vaccine works as effectively as it says, and what do you think was a better solution for the problem, making masks mandatory, or getting the vaccine?

Sources:

<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines-myth-versus-fact> [↗ \(https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines-myth-versus-fact\)](https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines-myth-versus-fact)

[← Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

You bring up the issue of how our presidential candidates clashed over the vaccine mandate. This is an important point to make, and seriously damaged the trust and credibility of science. People want to do the right thing, but we need educated leaders to confidently explain to us what we are supposed to do. We need leaders who can lead.

← [Reply](#)



**Dominic Salvatore** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/431475>)

Sep 17, 2022

Even in 2022, while numerous pieces of evidence prove them wrong, some still believe the earth is flat.

According to NASA, even the ancient greeks knew the earth is round, as they found out using multiple forms including, measuring shadows during the summer solstice, estimating distances on Earth using stars and constellations, and they were even able to see earth's shadow on the moon during a lunar eclipse. Geodesy is used today and accurately provides measurements of the earth which proves the earth is definitely round. Also, the most obvious evidence is there are pictures of the earth from space that depict it being round.

QUESTION: Even with all the evidence accumulated over the last 2000 years how can one still assume the earth is flat?

← [Reply](#)



**Presley Kosciusko** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/407205>)

Sep 17, 2022

ANSWER: I believe that some people still can't accept that the Earth is round because they are so anti-government, that they believe that everything they have been told is a lie, and everyone is being brainwashed.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Yes, it's fun to think of all the things that show the Earth is round. But flat-Earthers want to believe it's flat, so not sure anything you tell them will help.

← [Reply](#)




**Presley Kosciusko** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/407205>)

Sep 17, 2022

The issue that comes to my mind is the Covid vaccine. Multiple anti-vaccine groups have taken the chance that there might be long term side effects of the vaccine or boosters and blew it out of proportion, causing the general public to have doubt or confusion about their decision to take the vaccine or not. According to the CDC, since getting the vaccine, 90% of severe cases were eliminated. Also, it makes practical sense to get vaccinated because many things people must do in today's society requires proof of vaccination. The information and science behind the vaccine should be looked at for what it is, and it is clear to see what is misinformation and what isn't.

QUESTION: Do you think it is okay if a person you spend a lot of time with does not want to get vaccinated because it is against their churches' beliefs? Would you stop seeing them?

SOURCE:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html>   
(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html>)

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

This is why a science knowledge is important. Imagine forming or supporting a group that tells people to do one thing or another, but you later find that you supported a group that told people the wrong thing, and perhaps many people died from that. That would be a hard thing to grapple with personally and emotionally. Well... that's exactly what happened.


← [Reply](#)

  
(https://**Brandon Ramirez Guevara** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/243910>)

Sep 17, 2022

An issue I can think of and see it happen many times either on the news or in real life today is covid vaccines and people not taking them either for their religion, don't believe the proof of science research in the vaccines or straight up against the government in any way possible because they don't like the politicians and people telling them what to do. There were protests and signs saying that the vaccine will give you viruses and can kill you with all the side effects it can give after you have taken the covid vaccines and could even give you coronavirus if taken. According to the CDC, it states the side effects and that it is only fever, headaches, fatigue and pain in the injection area. They also state it is very rare to get anything worse than that like an allergic reaction. The worst you can get is feeling sick and could feel like having a cold or the flu. The CDC is an important place to look into for their scientific research about covid and the vaccines and booster shots and people should stop spreading misinformation to people about how the vaccine can kill you. I have experienced something like this happen.

QUESTION: Do you think that if the vaccine actually contained the coronavirus into your system that you and everyone else would take it in order to defend against the next case or would you not take it if it does have a chance to kill you?

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html>   
(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html>)

 Reply  
(http**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)


Oct 26, 2022

People almost "want" to believe it doesn't work. It's a type of person who believes in conspiracy theories, to rebel, to distrust, to defy authority. The problem is sometimes we as humans need to band together for our collective safety.

 Reply  
(https://**Beverlyn Amoh** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/252191>)

Sep 18, 2022

A statement that I feel holds a lot of tension, politically and scientifically is that the moon landing was fake. It has been years but up to this day, I still hear conspiracy theorists making this claim. There are many websites and videos debunking these statements, funny or not, I think these people are serious. One reason was the flag and how it was moving without wind in space which was debunked by the fact the flag had a rod in it and by extending it, it also gave a wavy effect. There are also claims about there being no stars in the pictures. Anyone that has a phone and has tried to take a picture of the sky would know that due to the low exposure and length, stars can't be seen in short exposures.

. <https://www.history.com/news/moon-landing-fake-conspiracy-theories>   
(<https://www.history.com/news/moon-landing-fake-conspiracy-theories>)

. <https://www.space.com/apollo-11-moon-landing-hoax-believers.html>   
(<https://www.space.com/apollo-11-moon-landing-hoax-believers.html>)

QUESTION: Even though we are in an astronomy class that shows us otherwise, Do you think the moon is real AND do you think the first moon landing was real?

 [Reply](#)



**Alisha Rivera** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/31612>)

Sep 18, 2022



ANSWER: This is a very interesting question. I almost thought about asking whether the moon is real or not. This may sound silly, but especially due to the fact that we have seen the moon through a telescope, it has made me have weird thoughts, such as "Is this thing even real"? If you were able to see Saturn it is so cute, but so tiny and almost looks fake (to me). I mean who really knows? The thing that also makes me have second thoughts about the moon is the fact the it is "Tidally Locked", meaning we only ever see one side of it. Is that not weird to you? I'm not saying that the moon does not exist, but it is kind of trippy in my opinion.

 [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022



The moon, Jupiter, and Saturn look so crisp and clear through a telescope, it does seem like they are fake. But how would you fake them when you are looking through telescopes yourself? But I see what you mean, it's almost like it's hard to believe that they are there.

 [Reply](#)





**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Yes, people like to think of crazy stuff, like the Moon landings are fake. It's more exciting to imagine such conspiracies, then to just assume we actually did it. I always say, our government is not competent enough to pull off the fake. That would have been harder than doing the real thing... haha.


← [Reply](#)



**Jayevin Abad** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/135325>)

Sep 18, 2022

One issue people are very split on are on the Covid vaccines. People would say that there's microchips in the vaccines, or you'll even die from being vaccinated. This is not true because according to the CDC, millions of people have safely received a Covid vaccine. And no there's no microchips in it either.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/safety-of-vaccines.html>   
(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/safety-of-vaccines.html>)

← [Reply](#)



**Jayevin Abad** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/135325>)

Sep 18, 2022

Do you think that the Covid vaccines were effective?

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Yes, that would be pretty expensive to put microchips in vaccines.... and what would these microchips do, and how would they work.


← [Reply](#)

 (https://**Barret Kelly** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/399463>)

Sep 18, 2022

One issue that I have always been interested in is aliens. There is hard science that shows evidence that there could most definitely be life on other planets such as water being present on moons like Europa. However it seems that conspiracy theories have become synonymous with extraterrestrial life and it is extremely hard to tell the difference between someone who is actually giving clear accounts and evidence of alien encounters or life on other planets and who is lying for fame or notoriety. It seems that the science is at odds with conspiracy theorists as the believable and provable accounts of alien encounters such as Roswell are few and far between.

The example of the moon Europa suggests that there could be life elsewhere in the universe but there is a lot of misinformation on whether we have seen life on other planets already by them visiting us.

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2022/apr/19/jupiters-moon-europa-may-have-water-life-could-exist>  (<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2022/apr/19/jupiters-moon-europa-may-have-water-life-could-exist>)



DO YOU THINK THERE IS LIFE ON OTHER PLANETS?

 Reply

 (http**Jackson Eastman** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/119087>)

Sep 18, 2022

C. ANSWER

I think life on other planets is a very real possibility. It's very hard to comb through all of the people who claim to have had encounters with alien life because there is no evidence other than their word. But ignoring those accounts I think that with time we will uncover more about the other planets and moons of the universe and I do believe that we will discover other life forms, even if it's nowhere near to the scale that life on Earth is.

 Reply

 (http**Ellie Little** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/408720>)

Sep 18, 2022

Hey barret, I think that since the universe is infinite, it would be selfish to say that we are the only planet that has life forms. I am super confident that planets have single cellular life or plant life, not necessarily life like ours.

← [Reply](#)



**Elijah Simpson** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/408250>)

Sep 18, 2022

Answer: Yes, I believe there is life on other planets. Maybe not life similar to humans in anyway, but I do think there forsake is some form of life on at least one of the other planets. We can't be the only one.

← [Reply](#)



**Jamie Lucatero (She/Her)** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/131221>)

Sep 18, 2022

ANSWER:

Hello Barret,

It's very hard to know if there may be other life on other planets since we are still looking into that. I feel that there is life on other planets. It's a hard topic to go on about because there are many people who make up fake news about seeing sightings or finding true articles about what we have found in space. This also has some what of a similarity as people believing if covid-19 was real since both do have proof that the virus existed and that sightings of life on other planets have feel sighted as well but there will always be those people who want no one to believe. For now that's a question that will be asked till is could be proved with very good evidence and ensuring that is believable.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Yes, conspiracy theories love aliens. I could say that aliens are what control me and make me teach, telling you that aliens don't exist (but when they secretly do). But that is a complicated scenario. Much easier to believe what is simple and boring. They probably are not sneaking around and hiding in the shadows with some diabolical plan. I agree, there is most likely alien life out there, but it's not sneaking around hiding and pretending to be us, infiltrating our human world.


← [Reply](#)

<https://>**Jackson Eastman** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/119087>)

Sep 18, 2022



### A. RESPONSE

The largest scientific conspiracy I can think of in my lifetime would defiantly be the people who say that masks never worked to prevent the spread of Covid. This issue only caused more lives to be lost and the pandemic to last much longer. I think people do not realize that there has been lots of evidence in support of masks and social distancing even early on in the pandemic. In July of 2020, PNAS published a review of evidence when it came to masks against Covid. According to their research on transmission within households, they found that, " face masks were 79% effective in preventing transmission, if they were used by all household members prior to symptoms occurring." When looking at this evidence it seems to me that masks are at the very least more effective than simply exposing yourself to the people around you without one. SOURCE- <https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2014564118>  
 [\\_ \(https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2014564118\)\\_](https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2014564118)



### B. QUESTION

Do you think people who believe these conspiracies come to these conclusions on their own based on their experiences or research? Or do you think that they simply believe whatever their side of the political aisle tells them to believe?

[← Reply](#)**Charles Hess** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/407514>)

Sep 18, 2022



### ANSWER:

I think people who believe in extreme conspiracy theories often want to be different from the rest and don't want to be grouped in with everyone else so they can be deemed a free thinker. In the same way, I think they like to believe in 'facts' or arguments that they agree with, whether or not they have any factual basis behind them. For example, if a person thinks wearing a mask is annoying, they may take any argument that shares a similar view as them to make them feel validated and justified in not wearing a mask, since they didn't want to in the first place.

[← Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Masks not only have been shown to be effective with experiments, but it makes sense. They clearly contain the spread of droplets from coughing and breathing. This is not rocket science.

[← Reply](#)



**Alisha Rivera** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/31612>)

Sep 18, 2022

The term "Lunacy" comes from the Conspiracy Theory that epilepsy and madness were caused by the moon. The root word of Lunatic is luna, which means moon. It was believed that different phases of the moon brought about craziness in certain people, much like werewolves. The word Lycanthrope, better known as Werewolf, comes from the Latin and Greek combinations of *lyk* (Greek, stemming from *lykos*, meaning "wolf") and *anthropos* (meaning "human being"). Both Lunacy and Lycanthropy were believed to be caused by certain moon phases

Astrology is the belief that certain alignments of celestial bodies and constellations have an effect on people's lives or futures; these are all examples of Pseudo Science. There is no scientific evidence that the arrangement of stars and planets, or that the location of your "astrological sign" at the date and time of your birth, have any significant association with real life events. Astrology is just a simple misguided and false way for people to project accountability onto an inanimate object, making it seem supernatural or superstitious.

QUESTION: Do you believe that occurrences such as "Mercury in Retrograde" or the Full Moon have any effect on our personal lives or the way that people with certain astrological signs behave?

[← Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

I like how you showed the etymology of the words lunacy and lycanthrope. How interesting. Well done.

[← Reply](#)




**Charles Hess** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/407514>)

Sep 18, 2022

Vaccines have been a popular topic in this discussion, and I wanted to add my two cents by mentioning the concerns of Americans, from the 90s to today, about whether or not vaccines can give a young child autism. An article in the 90s was published saying that the MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella) vaccine could result in a child developing behavioral issues, which then led to a decrease in parents allowing their children to get the shot.

Since 2003, the CDC has conducted 9 different studies that have found no link between vaccines giving children autism. One of the studies consisted of testing the antigens (the substances caused by vaccines) in children with autism and without. The results proved the point of there being no correlation between getting the MMR immunization and having Autism Spectrum Disorder because both children had the same number of antigens afterward.

SOURCE: <https://www.newsweek.com/top-5-conspiracy-theories-aliens-global-warming-vaccines-moon-landing-1662151>  (<https://www.newsweek.com/top-5-conspiracy-theories-aliens-global-warming-vaccines-moon-landing-1662151>)

QUESTION: Would you let your child/sibling/young person in your life get the MMR vaccine? Why or why not?

 [Reply](#)



**Javier Santana** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/426209>)

Sep 18, 2022

Hi Charles,

To answer your question, I would most definitely let my children/sibling get their MMR vaccines. As you mentioned, the CDC has proven no correlation between vaccines and children developing autism if they receive them, so there really is no point in not getting yourself or your children vaccinated. There is a lot of misinformation spread on the internet, especially with social media (different groups have been created out of people's belief in a conspiracy); I think a lot of people tend to automatically believe what they read which can be extremely harmful because it allows for misinformation like MMR vaccines causing autism to spread. In this day and age, receiving your MMR vaccines shouldn't even be an issue of discussion. It's important that we not only take care of ourselves and our health but also be considerate of other people as well.

 [Reply](#)**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Yes, the benefits of getting the vaccine are literally life vs death (for some people at least, and for sure for those you may or may not infect). It makes sense to do what we can to help save lives.

 [Reply](#)**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

The autism debate has been around for some time. However, as you point out, many studies have been done and they do not provide any merit to such ideas. What's a shame, is that this keeps families from vaccinating, and further putting children at risk.

 [Reply](#)**Javier Santana** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/426209>)

Sep 18, 2022

a.) In just the past decade, we have seen and have even begun enduring the impacts and effects of climate change on our planet. Even though there is scientific explanation to prove that climate change is real, many groups within the U.S. and worldwide still believe it's a hoax.

b.) According to NASA, the rate at which our planet has warmed and the current levels of CO<sub>2</sub> in our atmosphere haven't been this high for the past 800,000 years, and majority of the reason for these causes is due to human activity since the mid-1800s. Ancient evidence found in tree rings, coral reefs, and layers of sedimentary has shown that our planet is warming at a rate that is 10 times faster than the average rate after an ice age. This rapid warming has caused our planet's atmospheric temperature to rise, melting the ice caps and causing our ocean levels to rise.

c.) Do you believe that we have the resources and time to reverse the impacts of climate change, or are we past the point of no return?

 [Reply](#)


  
(https://**Ellie Little** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/408720>)

Sep 18, 2022

The first topic that come to mind for me is the covid vaccine and restriction. During the pandemic, a large amount of people refused to wear masks and get vaccinated because they did not believe that covid was a threat to them. They openly campaigned that covid wasnt real and that masks would not help reduce transmission of the disease.

Evidence states that face masks are 79% effective in preventing the transmission of covid. This study was done by the World Health Organization. A highly reliable organization when it comes to public health and safety

DO YOU THINK THAT WITH THE COVID VACCINE, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO WEAR A MASK?

source: <https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2014564118>   
(<https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2014564118>)

 [Reply](#)  
(http**Aaliyah Gavia** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/361848>)

Sep 18, 2022

hi ellie! i think that it's up to the person to be able to wear a mask or not. being masked up and having the covid vaccine is letting people know that you are aware of the potential sickness and dangers they can receive and spread by not being masked up or having the vaccine!

 [Reply](#)  
(http**Owen Saunders** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/436968>)

Sep 19, 2022

Hi Ellie,

ANSWER: I believe a person should be able to choose if they want to wear a mask or not, with some exceptions. I think if an individual is in a place such as a hospital, retirement home, or place of business where it is required, they should respect that. As long as they are being cautious and respectful to others, I do think they should be able to choose.

 [Reply](#)





**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

That is a common misconception, that if you are vaccinated, you do not need to wear a mask. Being vaccinated protects you from Covid, but doesn't guarantee that you won't get it. You can also get it but be asymptomatic, so wearing a mask is the best way to protect others.

[← Reply](#)



**Elijah Simpson** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/408250>)

Sep 18, 2022

The first thing I thought about when I heard this question was climate change. Climate change is clearly an issue that is backed up by science but politicians choose to ignore it. Politicians will try to dismiss climate change because it would effect their pockets. Currently, there are 139 elected officials who deny climate change. Collectively, these officials make 61 million dollars in lifetime contributions from the coal, oil, and gas industries, the industries that are the worst for our planet.

You can go to Nasa.Gov and you'll automatically see how real climate change is. "The effects of human-caused global warming are happening now, are irreversible on the timescale of people alive today, and will worsen in the decades to come". This is the first thing you'll see when you open the page

QUESTION: A question I have that I'm super curious about is why hasn't San Andres fault exploded yet. I remember watching San Andres in middle school, the movie about the San Andres fault, and then watching videos in science class about how the fault was overdue and that its supposed to have been exploded. Why has that not happened

[← Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

You bring attention to how politicians are swayed by corporate money and do not always represent our best interests. For their own success, they have to support the corporate line. How then do we get proper, safe, representation.

 [Reply](#)**Aaliyah Gavia** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/361848>)


Sep 18, 2022

One thing that was brought to mind when speaking about controversial topics is the COVID-19 vaccine. During the pandemic, the covid19 vaccine was proven by doctors to help stop the spread of covid 19, however people had very large theories that the vaccine would lead to other greater health risks when people are older like infertility, loss of limbs, and it was magnetic; however, studies are shown in an article written by Valentin Russanov, that the myths behind these headlines are not true. In the same article, Dr. Robert Amler, dean of New York Medical College School of Health Sciences and Practice and a former CDC chief medical officer, says overwhelming evidence shows that vaccines have caused reductions in disease in the United States and worldwide.

Do you think the vaccine is the right choice for every person in America?

 [Reply](#)**Aaliyah Gavia** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/361848>)

Sep 18, 2022

<https://www.healthline.com/health-news/doctors-debunk-9-popular-covid-19-vaccine-myths-and-conspiracy-theories#Myth:-Vaccines-dont-work>   
(<https://www.healthline.com/health-news/doctors-debunk-9-popular-covid-19-vaccine-myths-and-conspiracy-theories#Myth:-Vaccines-dont-work>)

 [Reply](#)**Jordan Latini** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/425436>)

Sep 20, 2022

Yes I think it is the right choice specifically because of its effectiveness even before it was FDA approved. We took a chance on something, and it worked...the world did in fact open up full swing because they made the unanimous choice to get vaccinated and boy oh boy do I want to live in Japan right now. Hope this is an answer that sparks more creative questioning- great writing.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Vaccines have been shown to save more people's lives than just about anything else humans have ever done. There was a time then kids got polio, infants died of whooping cough, and many other diseases caused sickness and death. Vaccines have all but eradicated some of the most serious contagions.

← [Reply](#)



**Jamie Lucatero (She/Her)** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/131221>)

Sep 18, 2022

RESPONSE:

Something that I could think of that interested me is how people assumed that covid-19 wasn't a real thing and anyone who wore masks were told they were unnecessary. There were people who were harassed in public for not wearing them even to the point of people protesting that they are being forced to wear something "they don't need". Many people who did wear the masks were very considered with the fact that they were taking care of themselves while others weren't. Masks were a source of control for covid and helped prevent the spread little by little. There were 170 studies that showed masks helped a lot to stop the spread of covid-19. Many people did not believe covid-19 was a thing due to sources that provided misinformation and since this pandemic was so recent there was still information coming out about the pandemic so it was very confusing for people to see what the true information about covid-19 was.

SOURCES:

Masks:

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/eight-persistent-covid-19-myths-and-why-people-believe-them/> → (<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/eight-persistent-covid-19-myths-and-why-people-believe-them/>)

COVID-19 belief:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01452-z> → (<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01452-z>)

QUESTION:

Why do you feel that some people may have thought masks didn't help? Do you think people believed anything they read on the internet because of all the time we had to sit and read anything we heard about covid and believe it immediately? How did this effect us when people didn't believe covid-19 while others did?

 [Reply](#) (http**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

It's shocking to see that people were harassed for wearing masks. Why would someone force their views on others, especially when it had no adverse affect on them. If some people feel better about wearing masks, then great, they should wear masks. What good is it to harass them and tell them not to. That's due to insecurity, ignorance, and plain personal disrespect.

 [Reply](#) (https://**Owen Saunders** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/436968>)

Sep 19, 2022

One of the issues that came to my mind when this topic came up what the flat earth conspiracy. Many people are convinced the earth is flat and refuse to believe the earth is a sphere... Even after this has been proven time and time again by science.

There is evidence that often uses the "horizon" to support the round earth case. Saying things such as "Watch the sunset from point A, and once the sun is out of sight, hurry on over to point B. With the added elevation provided by point B, you should be able to see the sun above the horizon. If Earth were flat, the sun would not be visible at any elevation once it had set. Because Earth is round, the sun will come back into your line of sight." Many examples such as this one fully support the round earth proven theory. They also include airplanes, satellite imaging, and the moon to prove the earth is round.

QUESTION: Are you fully convinced the earth is a sphere?

 [Reply](#) (http**Jami Alhady** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/435454>)

Sep 19, 2022

Yes, because astronauts have gone into space and have seen and taken pictures of the earth so we know that it is a sphere.

 [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

It's fun to list all the reasons why the Earth is round, but Flat-Earthers "want" to believe it's flat, so I'm not sure telling them these things will help.


← [Reply](#)



**Jami Alhady** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/435454>)

Sep 19, 2022

The debate on the COVID-19 vaccine was an issue that impacted everyone's lives in the years 2020 and 2021. A lot of people seemed to believe that the vaccine was the government trying to put micro-chips in us through the shot based of comments said by Bill Gates about a digital certificate of vaccine records.

According to multiple COVID-19 vaccine fact sheets, that have been approved by the U.S, that can be found anywhere online, there is no mention of any sort of electronic or technology in the vaccine. Also, according to Dr. Matt Laurens, a disease specialist that was involved in the trials of multiple vaccines, it is not possible to put micro chips in the vaccine because they are too big and they would require a power source that has to transmit a signal through multiple layers of skin muscle and fat. <https://www.cnbc.com/video/2021/10/01/why-theres-no-5g-tracking-microchip-in-the-covid-vaccine.html>   
(<https://www.cnbc.com/video/2021/10/01/why-theres-no-5g-tracking-microchip-in-the-covid-vaccine.html>)

QUESTION: Why do you think that after this theory has been proved wrong multiple times, people (who believed this theory) would still refuse to not get the vaccine?

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Yes, that would be pretty expensive to put microchips in vaccines.... and what would these microchips do, and how would they work.

[← Reply](#)**Jordan Latini** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/425436>)

Sep 20, 2022

Because I am so late on my submission, I will chose an obvious issue that has many controversial topics surrounding it: the vaccine. The right wing even came out over the Fox News claiming the "jab" killed people, caused problems with overall health, and most absurdly: was ineffective. The unfortunate response was a spike in numbers when the unvaccinated went out when the restrictions were lifted. The overall structure of the vaccine was different, thus causing even the world of science to question it. *Temple Health* writes "they use something called messenger RNA — or "mRNA" for short. mRNA is a tiny piece of genetic material that teaches cells in the body how to fight viruses. It has proven very effective." Back in summer 2021, the country came out with less restrictions and opened up, yet the boosted and the vaccinated remained safe from the virus.

MY QUESTION FOR YOU: is the vaccine effective?

hoping someone answers, but if not, thanks for reading.

[← Reply](#)**Finley Appleton** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/433595>)

Sep 20, 2022

ANSWER:

I think vaccination conspiracies stem from the idea that "vaccines cause autism" the main issue is that there is no proof that vaccines cause autism, but you cannot 100% say that they DONT cause autism just because we haven't seen a vaccine that causes autism.

My point is, that this mindset in those who may not understand science incredibly well has carried on. Which has led to a general suspicion towards newer vaccines. I believe that because of these suspicions- many people rationalize their fear with new conspiracies regarding the covid vaccine.

There is no evidence that vaccines are ineffective, but due to the negative connotations regarding vaccines they are not believed to be effective.

 [Reply](#)**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Yes, if everyone vaccinates, than our whole population is protected (as reasonably as possible). This is the best way to protect everyone (not just yourself).

 [Reply](#)**Finley Appleton** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/433595>)

Sep 20, 2022

One conspiracy theory that is shockingly still at large is whether the Moon landing was real. In Denmark, we watched a Myth Busters video regarding it, and the class concluded that in fact the moon landing was fake. I of course disproved the evidence, but I'm more interested in discussing WHY people believe such sentiments.

While watching scientific videos on Youtube, a certain creator who was explaining the Flat Earther Society said something along the lines of: "a lot of people in these communities believe in a flat earth or other conspiracy theories because science is hard to understand, and some people will not understand it as well as others. Since science is always changing, and if you don't understand the essentials of scientific theory, it can be confusing and frustrating. So these people opt for theories that are easier to understand"

This reminded me of my moon landing conspiracy debate, as one of the students said something along the lines of: "how can the moon landing be real if the flag is waving when theres no gravity?" I explained that it was wires. But generally I concluded that there was just a poor understanding of the scientific method amongst my peers. So heres my question:

QUESTION:

I believe that the root of many conspiracy theories that have something to do with science stem from a lack of understanding of the scientific method, and scientific theories. How can we better educate the public on science?

 [Reply](#)**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Good examples of conspiracy theories, and of the reasons why you feel they are wrong. I agree that a lack of understanding of basic science contributes, but I think it's more than that, perhaps an anger toward structured society, and/or even just that it's fun and they want attention. Funny story about how in Denmark, this class concluded the Moon landing was fake. They should take my class.

← [Reply](#)



(https://

**Ashley Sundholm** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/422143>)

Sep 21, 2022



In today's society we are expected to wear masks when asked, but at the beginning of covid many people couldn't see how contracting covid was an issue. The other half of people thought that if they got covid it would be 100% fatal. It didn't matter what people thought because it was a virus that was so new and effective, it took many months and many scientists to find a solution or a vaccine. Even then when we had many scientists coming to conclusions, the community refused to believe their hours of research. We still don't know enough about covid to determine much, but where we stand is a start.

← [Reply](#)



(http

**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022



At the beginning, people didn't know how severe Covid would be. That's why when faced with an unknown threat, one has to err on the side of caution. Then later, when more information has been gained, you can back off when you know how to safely do so. But at the start, we all should be vigilant, wearing masks and all.

← [Reply](#)



(https://

**Sarah Bergseteren Strange** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/410835>)

Oct 16, 2022



One of the first issues that came to mind is the conspiracy theory grounded on believing the Earth is flat.



It seems absolutely ludicrous to still believe this in 2022, especially with the millenia spent gathering large amounts of scientific research and proof to prove the Earth is round. For example, if you've ever flown in a plane before, you can clearly see the curve on the Earth below you since you're so far above it. Space.com delves deeper into this matter by addressing the experiments done by Captain Albert Stevens of the U.S. Army Corps in the 1930's. In one of these experiments, Stevens photographed the Andes Mountains from his plane. Those mountains, although taller than the plane's altitude, lay below the sensible horizon, because of the curvature of the Earth.

Dating back to the Ancient Greeks, people knew through other such experiments that the Earth couldn't be flat. After reading from Business Insider, I can confirm that one of these aforementioned experiments included comparing the different shadows that a stick, planted upright in the ground, would create throughout the day.

QUESTION: Can you explain why flat-earthers continue to deny the facts so blatantly when the evidence is literally right in front of them?

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/48863/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022



I like how you brought into the conversation some information (or data) that perhaps others are unfamiliar with. The story of Captain Albert Stevens and his pictures of the Andes Mountains was very interesting. I had not heard of that before. Good job.

← [Reply](#)