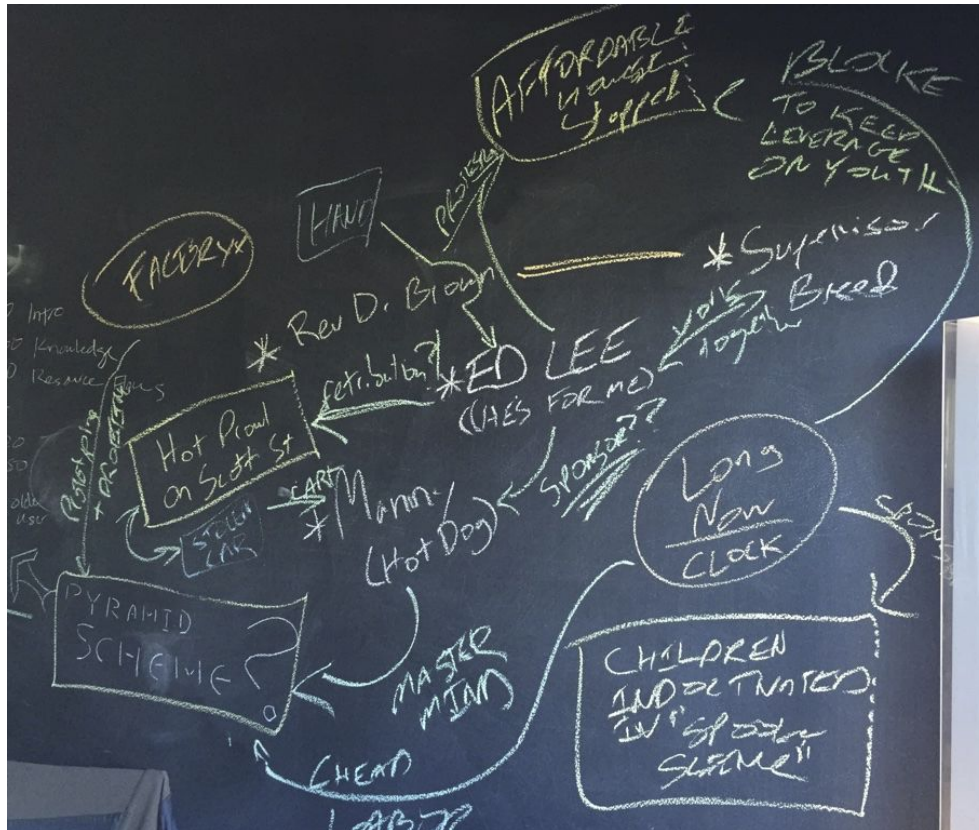


IT'S ALL CONNECTED!

A Collaborative Conspiracy Theory Game by Randy Lubin

IT'S ALL CONNECTED! is a group game where you generate a zany conspiracy theory with a newspaper and a writing surface. Players take turns adding elements to the theory and drawing connections between them.



Materials

This game requires a newspaper, a writing surface, and writing implements.

You can use any newspaper but local papers tends to generate more surreal and humorous theories - the crime blotter and events sections are especially fertile. National newspapers might yield more serious theories and you can use magazines to develop industry-specific theories.

Large blackboards or whiteboards make great surfaces. Use colored chalk or dry-erase markers to make your theories more persuasive. You can always use pen and paper but it may be harder for everyone to see.

Rules

Seeding the Theory

Split up the newspaper among the players and take a minute to look through the articles.

Start the game by adding a few **elements** to the board. Elements can be Individuals, Organizations, Things, or Events. Pick them out of articles from the paper. Don't make anything up yet, just add the name or a short phrase to the board.

Car Thefts on
Mission Street

Hot Dog Vendor
Builds Cart from
Scrap Metal

You can make different types of elements stand out through both color and outline. For example:

- Boxes for events and things
- Stars for People
- Ovals for Organizations

The League
of Pissed-off
Voters

★ The Mayor

Have everyone add at least one element; aim for four to six. Spread out the elements so you have room to add more later.

The Thesis

After selecting your initial elements it's time to create a thesis. This is the core of your conspiracy theory and you'll spend the rest of the game proving it. A good thesis combines elements in surprising ways often involves groups and individuals with strong motives. It should be absurd and unbelievable with just a hint of possibility.

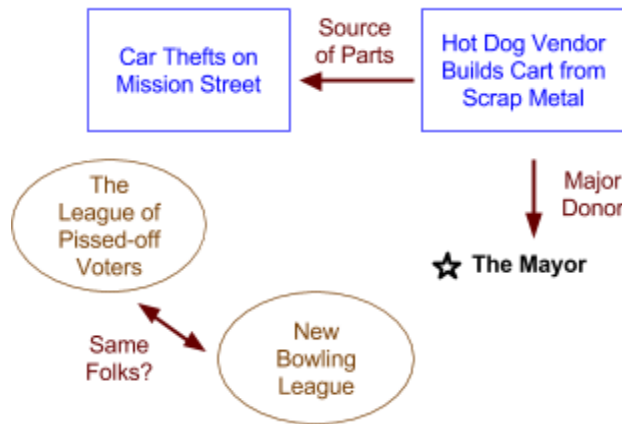
The thesis created from the above elements might be:

- The mayor is using car thefts to consolidate power
- The League of Pissed-off Voters is behind a crime wave meant to unseat the mayor

Proving the Truth

Once you've seeded the board and chosen a thesis, it's time to prove the truth. On your turn, either add a new element to the board or draw a **connection** between existing elements.

Connections are a physical line linking two elements together; along the line, write what the nature of the relationship (e.g. sponsor, victim, lackey, co-conspirator).



The relationship should be fictional and speculative. This is how you generate the meat of the conspiracy. You can use arrows to indicate the direction of a relationship (e.g. major donor) but they're not necessary.

Continue adding elements and connections until you've figured out the conspiracy or run out of space. One element can have multiple connections.

Tips

- Use punctuation (?!), underlining, and arrows to spice up the board
- Play this game with chalk in a public space to better disseminate the truth
- On the go? You can use Wikipedia's 'Random article' button to seed your theory with People, Organizations, Things, and Events

About

IT'S ALL CONNECTED! was created by [Randy Lubin](#). Send feedback and photos of your conspiracies to randy@hyperdiegesis.com

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