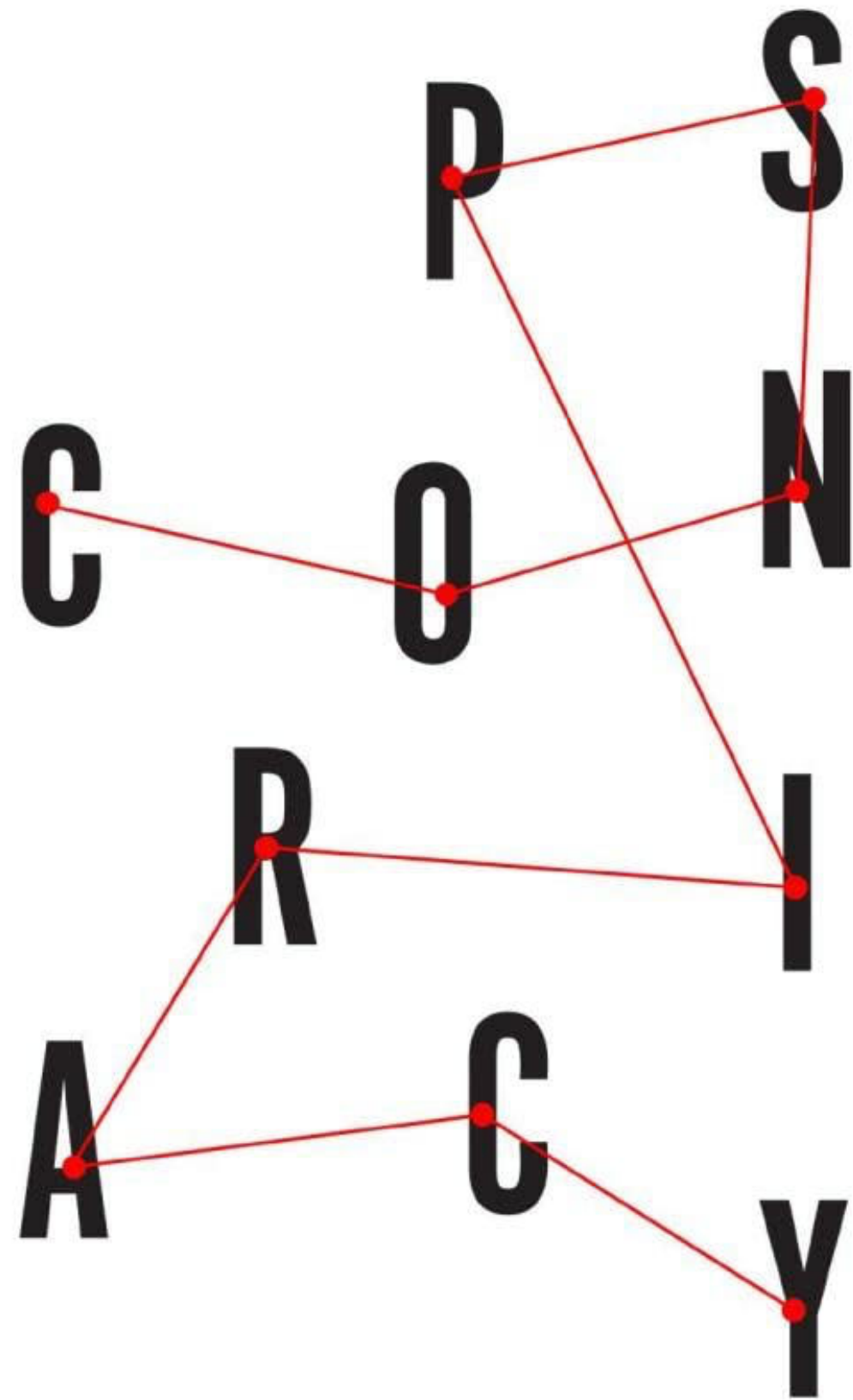


A Shady Cabal

Conspiracy culture and false belief



Conspiracy theories

Conspiracy theories are beliefs that a group of people has secretly plotted to cause harm or bring about a particular event.

Conspiracy theories often involve a small group of powerful people who are working together to achieve their goals.

Conspiracy theories are often based on a lack of understanding of the world and a desire to control it.

Conspiracy theories are often spread through social media and other online platforms.

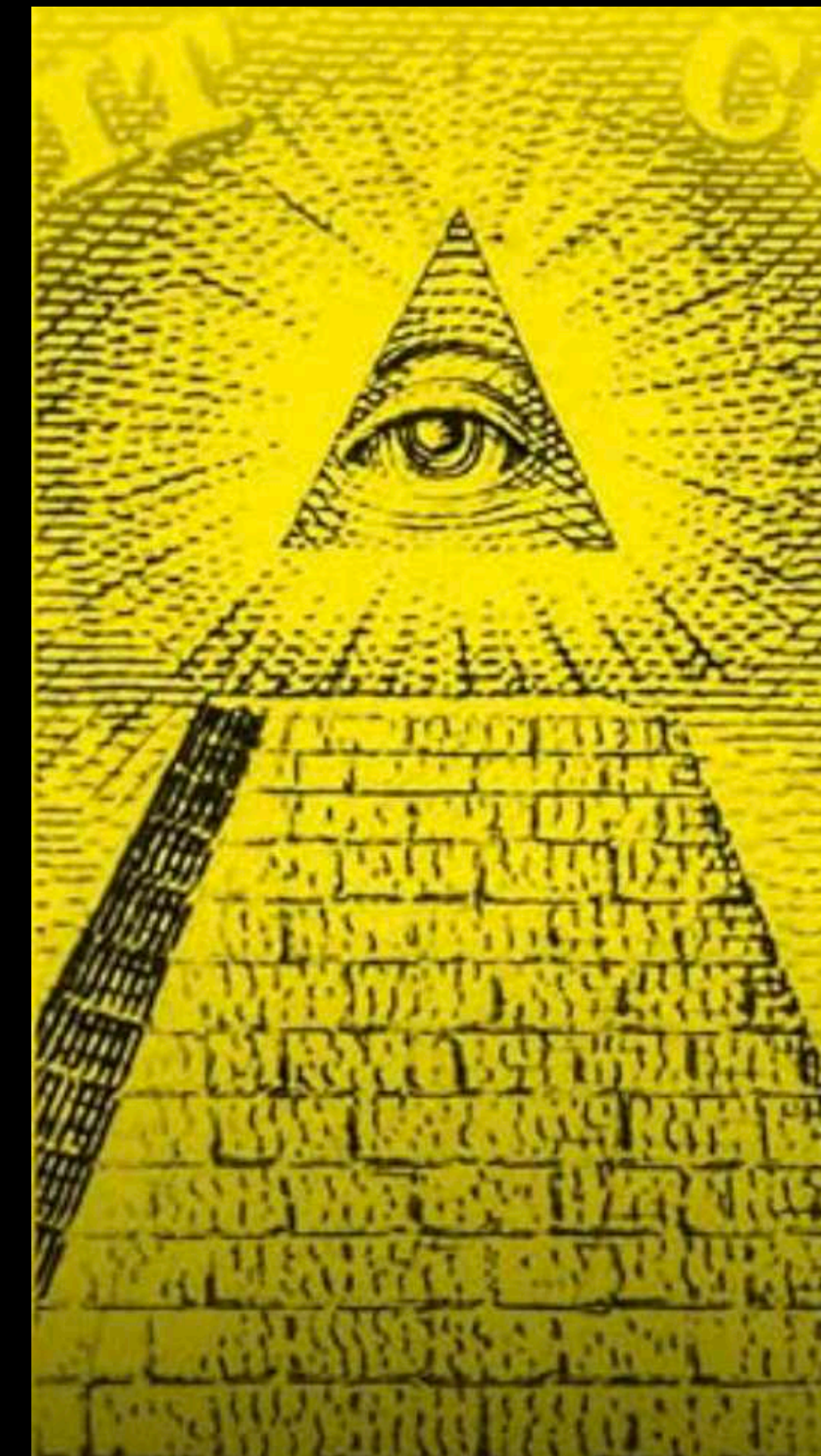
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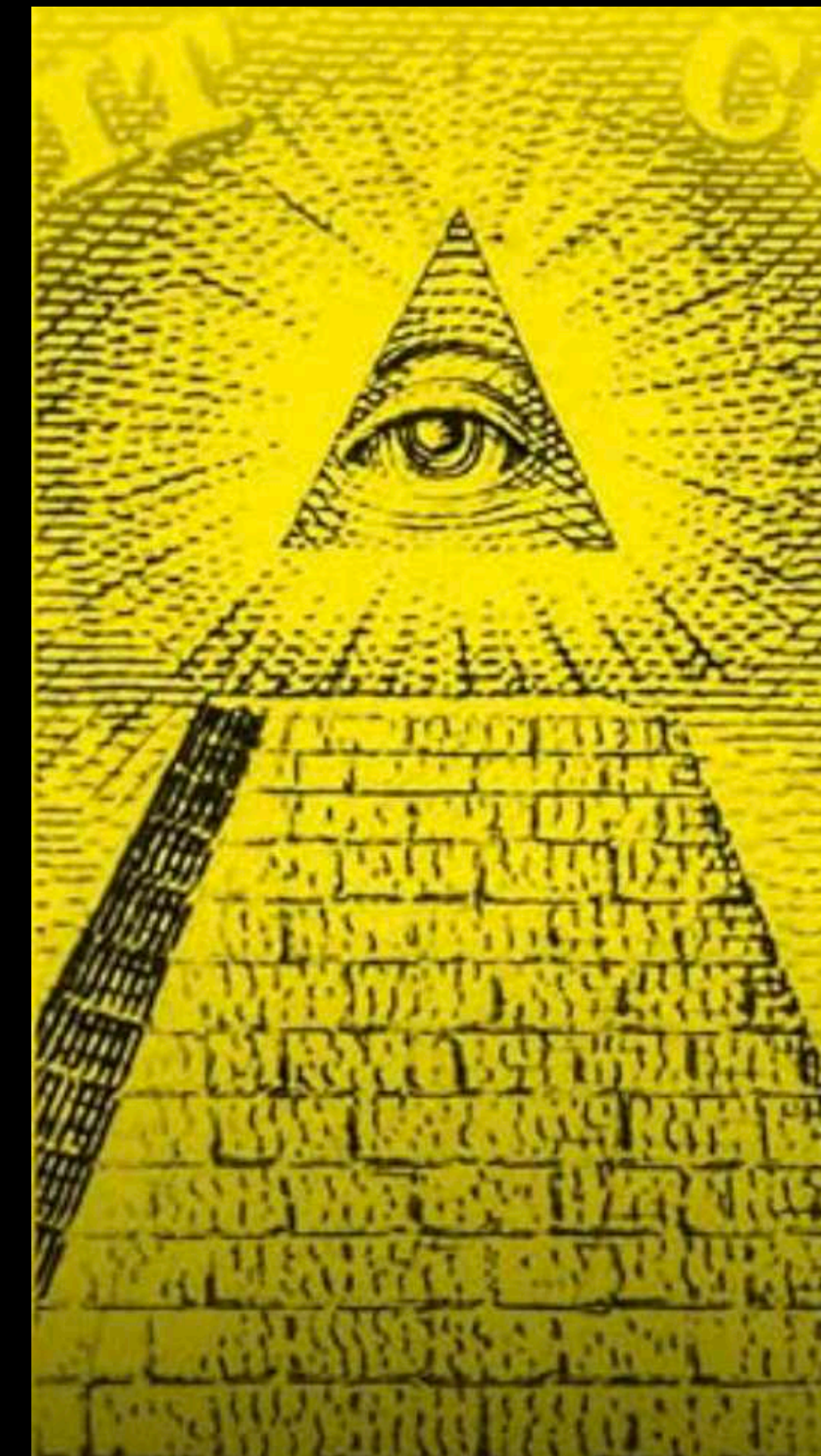
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Conspiracy theories suggest:

- there is a secret, often sinister, coordinated effort by a group



Conspiracy theories suggest:

- there is a secret, often sinister, coordinated effort by a group
- the official explanation for events is inaccurate or deliberately misleading



**A surging conspiracy
culture has taken hold.**

– Naomi Klein



A surging conspiracy culture has taken hold.

Conspiracy theories get the *facts* wrong, but they often get the *feelings* right.

– Naomi Klein



How we might we address these susceptibility factors?

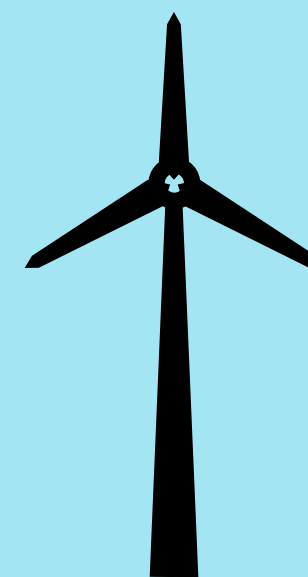
(What could we do, individually or collectively, to make people more resistant to believing in conspiracy theories?)



Some conspiracies are real.

Some conspiracies are real.

**But how can we distinguish *real* conspiracies
from *baseless* conspiracy theories?**





A Bump in the Night

Your creative response

- Written reflection
 - Story
 - Dialogue
 - Comic
 - Poem
 - Drawing
 - Mini-zine
 - Persuasive argument
 - Letter
- ... or whatever other format you like!

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Is it a problem if emotions shape our reasoning?

Is it a problem if we become more invested in our beliefs over time?

How can we distinguish between real and baseless conspiracies?