



What defines a conspiracy?

Most conspiracy theories share a **common structure**. Four key elements are typically present:

1 A group of actors –

individuals or institutions
believed to be working together



3 A hidden goal –

an objective not openly
acknowledged



4

A goal perceived as harmful or unlawful –

something seen as threatening,
immoral, or illegitimate

Understanding this basic structure helps us see how conspiracy theories take shape—and why they are often **emotionally compelling**, **difficult to challenge**, and **resistant to counter-evidence**.