

Propaganda Techniques

Most people, autistic or not, can recognise the more obvious, extreme, or blatant examples of extremist propaganda out there, but radicalisation is more likely to start with reading and sharing more subtle propaganda, that may not be immediately recognisable.

Some of this propaganda is designed to send the reader down extremist pathways in search of more information, without necessarily realising that this is what's happening.

Content warning: This resource contains real extremist propaganda sourced from social media sites, including racist and anti-Semitic content and mentions of paedophilia that may be upsetting.

“Just asking questions”



This is intended to be difficult to argue against because it isn't making a concrete point, so the poster can always fall back on "I'm just asking questions!"

Common phrases include "does anyone else find it odd/strange", "isn't it weird that...", "has anyone else seen [something that isn't actually common or real at all]", etc.

Starting from a false premise



This technique spreads distrust of mainstream media and/or scientific sources. It works by implying that a source is lying or exaggerating about something their audience may not have much knowledge of, to encourage the audience to question other claims made by the legitimate source.

This is often used to create and reinforce the belief that historical or current figures are less left-wing or progressive than they really were or are.

On its own this won't do much, but this plus another half dozen similar posts will start to create the impression that the media is constantly deliberately lying to push a progressive agenda – so the truth is probably something more right-wing.

The media is lying or concealing information



This technique spreads distrust of mainstream media, with the goal of increasing trust in alternative, radical, and extremist sources.

Common ideas include the media being in the pocket of various figures or groups (often Jews, LGBTQIA+ people, or representatives of these groups), and/or mainstream media not reporting important information.

As with the previous technique – sustained exposure to this type of rhetoric creates the impression that the mainstream media is constantly lying and covering things up, pushing people towards alternate sources.

“Our opponents are the real bigots”



This relies on the audience feeling shame about being racist, sexist, etc. or about being perceived as bigoted.

It uses language that is difficult to argue against without looking stupid, ignorant, or bigoted (such as “It is obviously incredibly insulting to claim that...”).

“Do your own research”



You have probably encountered this phrase on social media yourself – it’s used across a huge range of groups, from conspiracy theorists to anti-vaxxers to people selling scam products.

The idea of everyone’s opinion being equally valid can be very appealing to people who feel unheard or that their opinions and feelings are frequently dismissed.

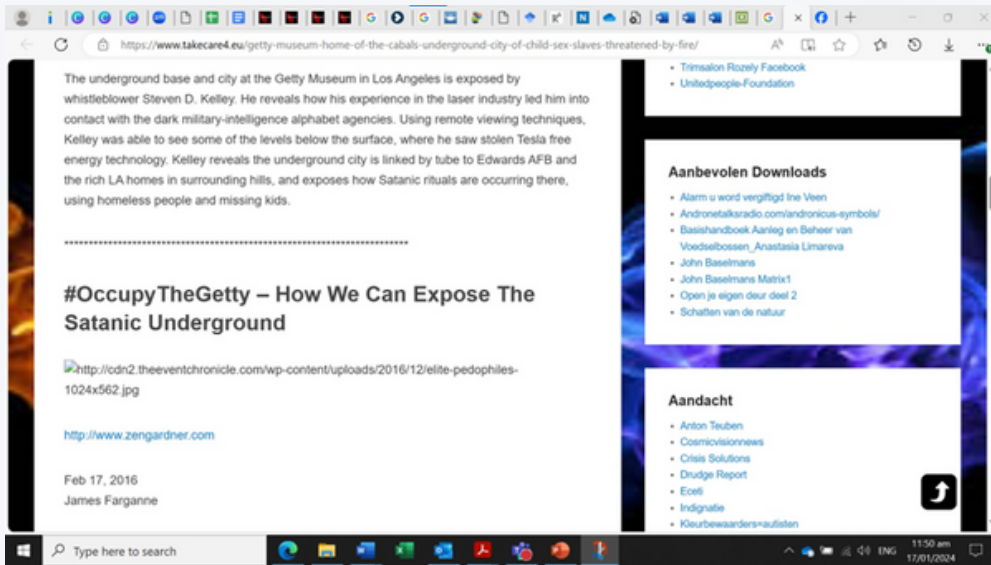


This piece of propaganda is designed to funnel the reader down specific extremist paths.



If you see this and decide to try to find out more, the claims made are general enough that you are unlikely to find anything... unless you include the search term “cabal”.

“Do your own research”



These screenshots are an X (formerly Twitter) post and a conspiracy website. They were the fourth and fifth results of a Google search for “Getty Museum underground cabal”.

(The first result was a Snopes article debunking the whole conspiracy; the second and third were news articles about a controversial film that presents the conspiracy as truth - one helpful result quickly drowned out.)

“Do your own research”


 **Almighty Blessing**
July 16, 2020 · 🌐


Investigate the Getty Museum, a pedophile fortress with more than 12 floors underground. Two million women and children were there until 2018. There are elevators and practically a city down below with thousands of sex slaves. Only people on list A can walk all over the place, the elevators lead to a tunnel system. It is guarded with high security. It is a hell created within another hell! Epstein Island is just the tip of the iceberg !! Welcome to reality.~RenatoKU~

#OpenYourEyes 🙄👁️




This Facebook page was the sixth result.

 **Andy Chalkley**
It is difficult to know if this is true:
<https://yandex.com/search/...>





YANDEX.COM
GETTY MUSEUM, A PEDOPHILE FORTRESS

21w Like Reply Edited

 **Chris Mt**
<https://throughthelookingglassnews.wordpress.com/.../on.../>

THROUGHTHELOOKINGGLASSNEWS.WORDPRESS.COM
On the HIGHWAY TO HELL: Exploring the PIZZAGATE / PEDOGATE /...

3y Like Reply  2

 **Maq Last**
<http://www.ascensionwithearth.com/.../pedogate-getty...>

ASCENSIONWITHEARTH.COM
#Pedogate - Getty Museum - Home Of The Cabal's Underground City of...

The comment section leads to multiple other conspiracy websites.

(Notice the comment saying “It is difficult to know if this is true” - a common variation on the “Just asking questions” technique.)

“Do your own research”

Within less than ten clicks, I had gone from curiosity about an odd post to multiple sites, social media users, and news articles all backing each other up.

The next few links in the chain very quickly became upsetting, but it took me a total of 8 clicks to get from “I wonder what that person’s talking about” to calls for violent action against Jews.

I have a tertiary-level education and the critical thinking skills that come along with it, and a strong network of friends, family, and coworkers to check this sort of thing with if I feel uncomfortable or think I might have stumbled across false information (and I was doing this as an exercise in the full knowledge that I was looking for false information).

The initial post is designed as propaganda to trap people without any of those protective factors, and this is how quickly it works.