

Conspiracy Theories Versus Occam's Razor

Conspiracy = When two or more people work in secret to arrange some illegal or amoral activity. A conspiracy theory is a way of explaining some event by claiming that several people conspired to make it occur. A conspiracy theory is a relatively *complicated* explanation that sometimes makes assumptions of things that cannot be fully proven.

Occam's Razor is a logical principle that states the following: In explaining some event, when you have a choice between two different explanations which are both equally good at accounting for the facts, the *simpler* of the two explanations is preferred.

Occam's Razor is the standard argument against conspiracy theories, since such theories tend to be complicated, as noted above.

However, Occam's Razor does not state that conspiracy theories are *always* incorrect; or that conspiracy theories never happen.

How would Occam's Razor be used to assess various theories relating to the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963?