

1. Why would someone want to kill JFK?

1	Who was JFK?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Former Democrat senator, youngest ever President of the United States. Elected in 1961, defeating Richard Nixon in first TV debate election. From a rich catholic family, he has seen as glamorous and youthful.
2	What successes did he have?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Handled Cuban Missile Crisis of 1963 well, negotiated a nuclear testing truce. Helped draft and introduce Civil Rights legislation to improve the rights of African Americans.
3	Why were some opposed to JFK?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Many in the south were opposed to his support for Civil Rights. Some believed he was too soft on communism. Russia and Communists in America wanted revenge for his success in removing missiles from Cuba. The mob (gangsters) were unhappy that he had failed to remove communists from Cuba.

2. The Assassination

1	What happened?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> JFK was riding in an open top Limousine on a tour of Dallas, Texas as part of his election campaign. His car was riding past onlookers on Elm Street at 12.30pm when shots were heard and JFK was struck in the throat and the head. Texas Governor John Connally was also struck by a bullet in the back He was rushed to hospital but pronounced dead at 1pm. At 2pm Vice-President Lyndon B Johnson was sworn in as President
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2	Evidence	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> On the Zapruder film both Kennedy and Connally react at the same time suggesting they were hit by the same bullet from the direction of the School Book Depository Kennedy's body movements for the head shot went back and left suggesting he was shot from the grassy knoll Doctors performing the autopsy initially said the back of the head was consistent with an exit wound, but later said it could be an entry wound. Several witnesses said they heard shots from the direction of the grassy knoll Most witnesses said they heard no more than three shots fired. Several witnesses heard more than three shots including a police officer who claimed to have heard up to 11 shots fired.
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3. Lee Harvey Oswald

1	Who was Oswald?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Oswald was a 'loner' who was a communist and had lived in the USSR. He worked at the Texas School Book Depository where the shots were fired from. He had served in the US Marines.
2	Evidence against Oswald	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Several people saw him entering the SBD before the assassination carrying a large long package. He had a mail order Italian 6.5mm Manlicher Carcano rifle the same type of rifle found on the 6th floor of the Book depository.

Key Word	Definitions
Assassination	The act of deliberately killing a prominent person
Civil Rights	A movement particularly prominent in the 1950s and 60s to ensure equal treatment and rights of African Americans
C.I.A	The American secret service that deals with international affairs.
Cold War	Rivalry and tension between USA and Russia from 1945-1989
Communism	A political system where everything is controlled and owned by the state and wealth is shared
Conspiracy	A secret plan by a group to do something unlawful or harmful
Democrats	The more liberal of the two main political parties in America, JFK was a Democrat.
Grassy knoll	A small grassy hill in front of JFK where some heard shots from
Lone Gunman Theory	The belief that only one gunman took part in the assassination of JFK
M.A.D	Mutually assured destruction: The idea that use of Nuclear Weapons would destroy both USA and USSR in a potential war
Mob	Organised crime gangs in America, mainly associated with Italian immigrants.
Nuclear weapons	New weapons with the power to destroy entire cities
Republican	The more conservative of the two main US political parties
Superpower	The name given to the USA and USSR as the two most powerful countries in the world
Vice President	Second in command to the President, takes over if the President dies or leaves office

Evidence
against
Oswald
(continued)

3. Oswald worked in the TSBD where the shots were fired from.
4. The bullet tests in the investigation said that the shots that killed Kennedy and wounded Connally were fired from a rifle like Oswald's Italian rifle and the rifle found on the 6th floor.
5. He tried to assassinate anti Communist speaker General Walker on 10th April 1963.
6. He had the ability to carry out the 3 shots at 88 yards in 8.5 seconds as he was a (albeit poor) marine sharp shooter.
7. One witness saw a man matching Oswald's description shooting from the window at the depository.
8. Oswald was spotted leaving the scene of the shooting and was later confronted some distance away by police officer who Oswald then allegedly shot and killed. Oswald was later found and arrested by the police.

3 Evidence
supporting
Oswald

1. Oswald denied the charges against him.
2. He was characterised as a 'poor shot' during his time in the Marines.

4 Oswald's
assassination

1. Oswald was arrested the same day as the assassination.
2. He denied the charges against him when interviewed by police but never saw a trial.
3. On November 24th, two days after JFK was assassinated, Oswald was shot dead by Gangster Jack Ruby while being transferred by police.

4. Conspiracy Theories

1 Evidence of a
Conspiracy

1. One of the doctors who performed the autopsy said their report had bloodstains on it so he copied it and burnt the original. When asked if it missed anything he replied "I don't think so"
2. There was a mistake on the autopsy - The location of the back wound, which is lower than the throat wound, is inconsistent with a shot from the Book Depository Building.
3. The Warren Commission did not allow photographs of the autopsy to be used in the investigation – drawings were used instead.
4. When the photographs were released there were claims that the autopsy photographs had been tampered with.
5. Sandra Spencer who processed the photos said the ones she was shown in 1997 were not the ones she remembered from that day.
6. Oswald was assassinated by a Mob member two days after he was arrested

2 Conspiracy
motives

1. C.I.A were concerned JFK would take away their power
2. USSR were bitter that JFK had 'won' Cuban Missile Crisis stand off
3. Cuba/Castro hated JFK for keeping Cuba poor

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