



# “Intellectual” Fomites

A fomite is a common object whose surface can spread germs. Examples are counter-tops, handrails, doorknobs, light switches, and mobile phones. “Intellectual” fomites exist too. Often, youthful or weak minds encounter ideas in books, school lectures, news or opinion broadcasts, movies or television shows, or newspapers. They internalize these ideas with belief and emotion but without an understanding of their full contexts. Then they spread them to others with, to use W.B. Yeats’ words, a “passionate intensity.” You wind up with a culture of people who are uninformed, ignorant, and easily controlled.