

PARTIAL LIST OF LOGICAL FALLACIES

APPEAL TO PITY: "I DESERVE AN 'A' ON EXAM BECAUSE I NEED IT TO GET INTO MEDICAL SCHOOL."
APPEAL TO AUTHORITY: "ASPARTAME IS SAFE BECAUSE THE FDA SAYS SO."
APPEAL TO FORCE: "YOU SHOULD MAJOR IN BUSINESS BECAUSE I AM PAYING FOR YOUR COLLEGE."

APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE (CONSENSUS): "NADER IS NOT CREDIBLE BECAUSE PEOPLE DIDN'T VOTE FOR HIM."
APPEAL TO IGNORANCE: "CELL PHONES ARE SAFE BECAUSE NO ONE HAS PROVED THEM HARMFUL."

BIFURCATION: "YOU SHOULD BURY THE HAZARDOUS WASTES BECAUSE IT IS UNSAFE TO BURN THEM."

SPECIAL PLEADING: "MARY IS PUSHY, BUT JOHN IS STRONG."
"PROFESSOR KULPA AND MRS. SHRADER-FRECHETTE ARE THE TEACHERS."

AD HOMINEM: "YOU CAN'T TRUST THIS DRUG BECAUSE THE PHARMACIST IS ONLY TRYING TO MAKE MONEY."

COMPLEX QUESTION: "ARE YOU STILL DUMPING TOXIC WASTES IN YOUR BACKYARD?"

BEGGING THE QUESTION: "ABORTION IS WRONG BECAUSE IT IS MURDER."
"ABORTION IS OK BECAUSE WOMEN HAVE RIGHTS OVER THEIR BODIES."

STRAW MAN: "BIOLOGICAL PEST CONTROL IS UNDESIRABLE BECAUSE SOMETIMES CHEMICALS ARE NEEDED."

IRRELEVANT THESIS: "BIOLOGICAL PEST CONTROL IS UNSOUND BECAUSE IT DESTROYS ONLY SOME PESTS."

FALSE CAUSE: "GIVEN ITS ANTHROPOCENTRISM, CHRISTIAN ETHICS HAS CAUSED ENVIRONMENTAL HARM."

FALSE ANALOGY: "IF YOU TRAVEL BY AUTOMOBILE, THERE IS NO REASON TO OPPOSE NUCLEAR POWER."

DENYING THE ANTECEDENT "IF THE EMPLOYER RATES WOMEN LOWER THAN MEN , THEN HE IS SEXIST. BUT HE DID NOT RATE WOMEN LOWER THAN MEN, SO HE IS NOT SEXIST."

AFFIRMING THE CONSEQUENT "IF THE EMPLOYER RATES WOMEN LOWER THAN MEN , THEN HE IS SEXIST. BUT HE IS SEXIST, SO HE WILL RATE WOMEN LOWER THAN MEN."

HASTY GENERALIZATION: "NO WOMEN ARE GOOD AT MATH."

COMPOSITION: "BUSES USE MORE FUEL THAN CARS. THEREFORE THE US SHOULD USE AUTOS, NOT BUSES."

DIVISION: "AGGREGATE EMPLOYMENT DATA SHOW A COMPENSATING WAGE DIFFERENTIAL (CWD) FOR RISKY JOBS. THEREFORE MINORITIES WHO WISH MORE PAY SHOULD TAKE RISKY JOBS."

AMPHIBOLY: 'SHOOTING INTO THE CROWD, THE ENVIRONMENTALIST STOPPED THE MURDERER.'

EQUIVOCATION: "INCREASING ENERGY PRODUCTION BRINGS ECONOMIC PROGRESS; ECONOMIC PROGRESS IS NECESSARY; THEREFORE INCREASING ENERGY PRODUCTION IS NECESSARY."

ACCENT: "THE LEACHING OF THE DIOXIN WILL CAUSE NO FATALITIES."

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FIVE LOGICAL CRITERIA: ASSUMPTIONS, CONSEQUENCES, CONSISTENCY, COMPLETENESS, COHERENCE