

*"Most people think..."*

*"The government has stated..."*

*"Experts believe..."*

*"Everybody knows..."*

*"It's widely believed that..."*

Each of these is an example of an Appeal to Authority Fallacy, because a valid authority is one that can be checked and tested.

If you train yourself to spot these appeals to unnamed authorities, you can undermine a difficult interview very easily.

Interviewer: *"Mr Jones, everybody knows that..."*

Mr Jones: *[interrupts] "Who's everybody?"*

Interviewer: *"I mean, most people are saying..."*

Mr Jones: *[interrupts] "Really? Not to me they're not. Who are most people?"*

Interviewer: *"Well, research shows..."*

Mr Jones: *[interrupts] "Whose research?"*

Interviewer: *"Mr Jones, can I make my point without the constant interruption?"*

Mr Jones: *"Please do, but start with 'I think'."*

Interviewer: *"Okay, I think..."*

Mr Jones: *[interrupts] "No one gives a monkey's what you think."*

You shouldn't feel bad about smashing people who try to attack you with an appeal to unnamed authority. After all, they are looking to create an "invisible magic flaming sword" out of nothing and wield it against you.