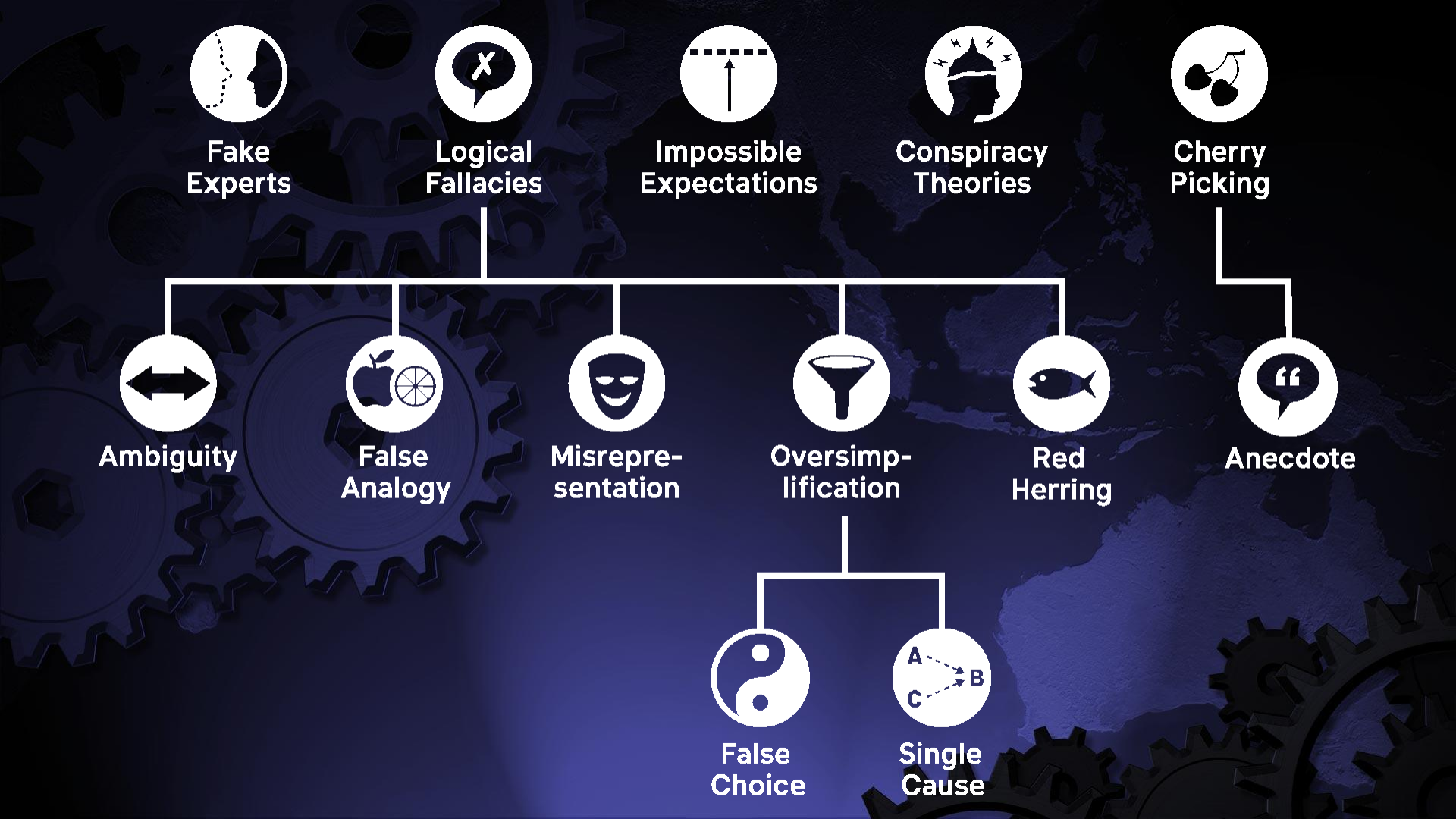
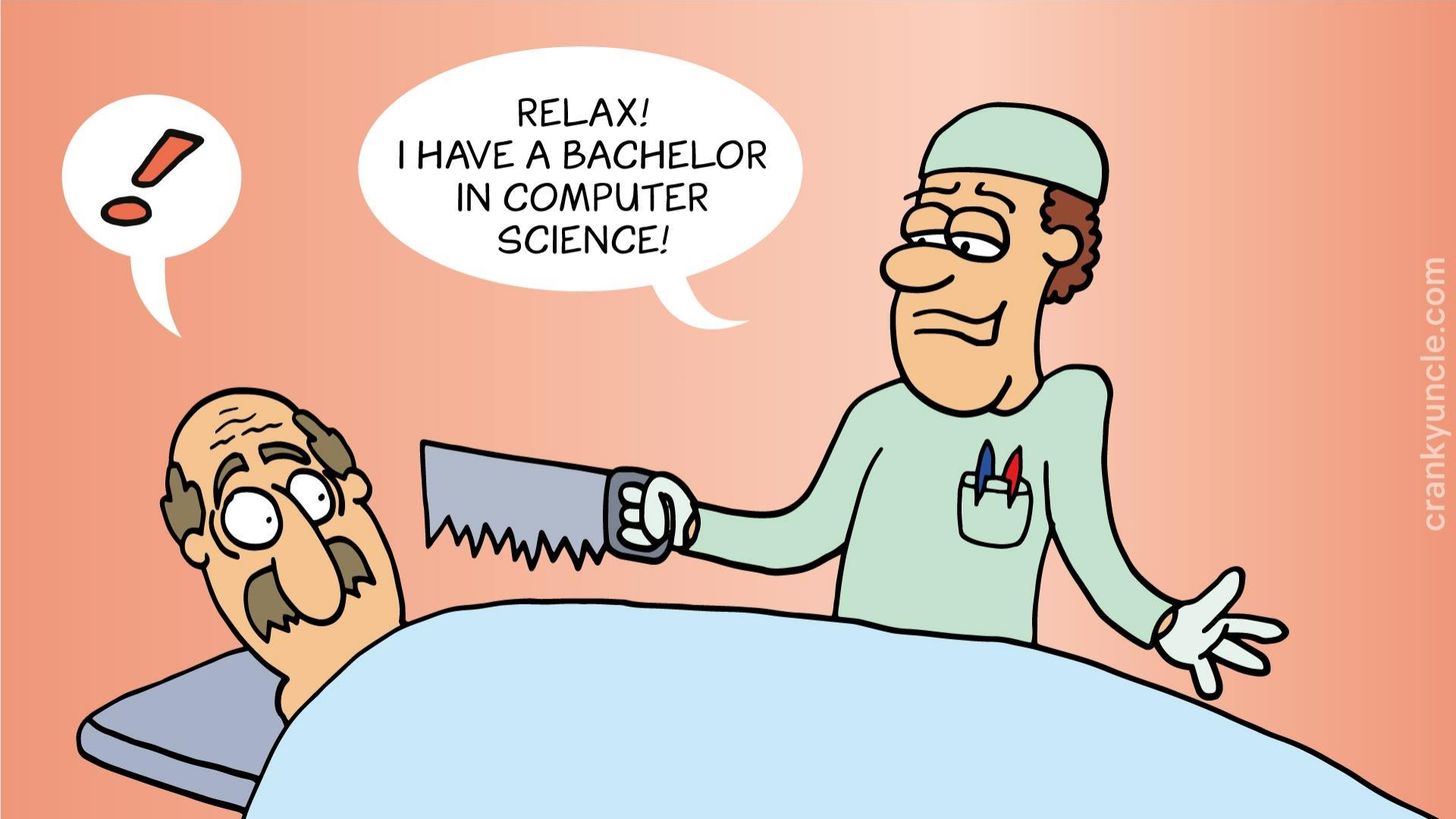
FLICC: the Techniques of Science Denial


Fake Experts
Logical Fallacies
Impossible Expectations
Conspiracy Theories
Cherry Picking
Ambiguity
False Analogy
Misrepre-sentation
Oversimp-lification
Red Herring
Anecdote
False Choice
A
B
C
Single Cause

Fake Experts

Presenting an unqualified person or institution as a source of credible information.


!
RELAX!
I HAVE A BACHELOR
IN COMPUTER
SCIENCE!
crankyuncle.com

Global Warming Petition Project

31,487 American scientists have signed this petition, including 9,029 with PhDs

Petition

We urge the United States government to reject the global warming agreement that was written in Kyoto, Japan in December, 1997, and any other similar proposals. The proposed limits on greenhouse gases would harm the environment, hinder the advance of science and technology, and damage the health and welfare of mankind.

There is no convincing scientific evidence that human release of carbon dioxide, methane, or other greenhouse gases is causing or will, in the foreseeable future, cause catastrophic heating of the Earth's atmosphere and disruption of the Earth's climate. Moreover, there is substantial scientific evidence that increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide produce many beneficial effects upon the natural pland and animal environments of the Earth.

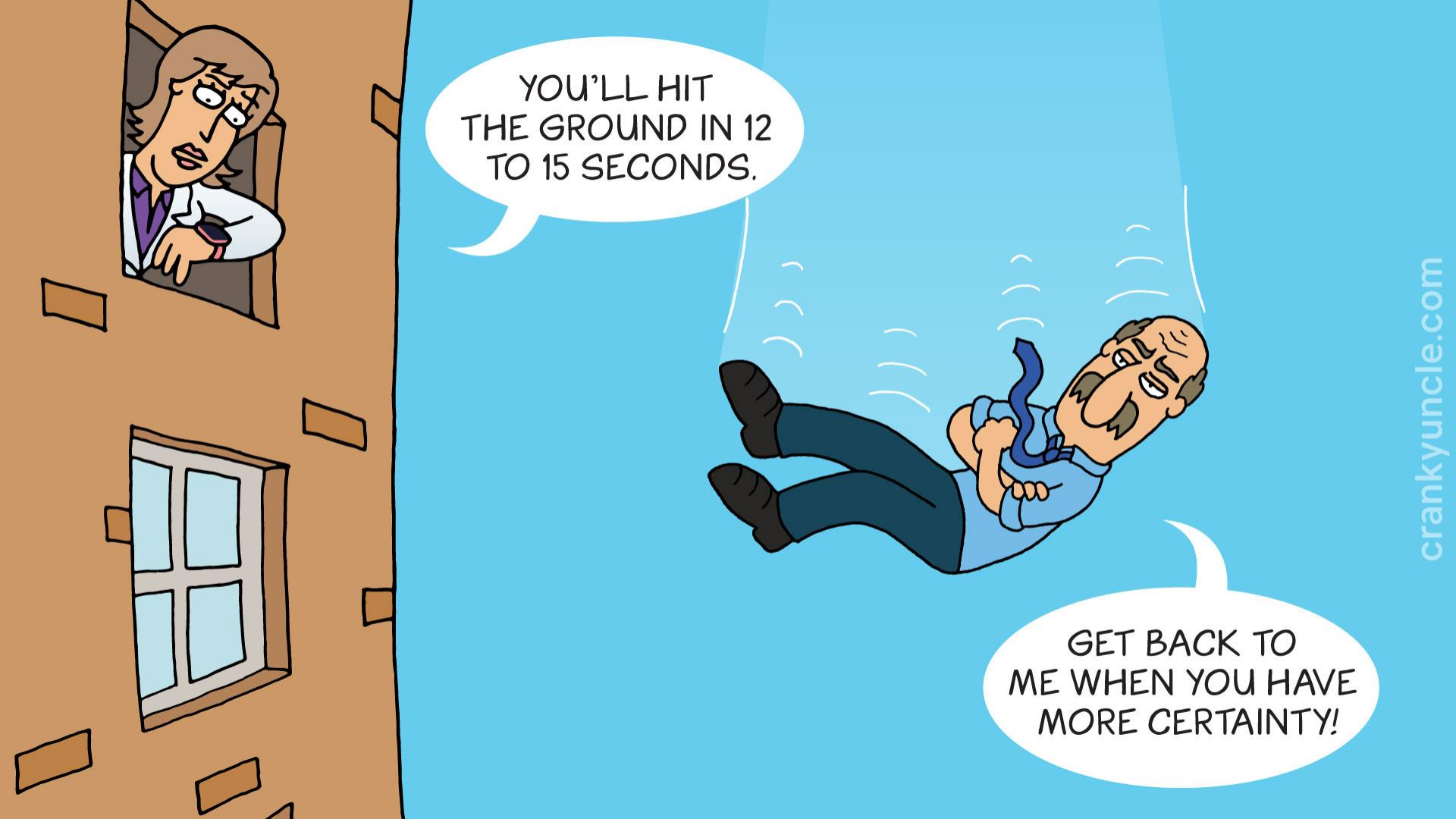
Logical Fallacies

Arguments where the conclusion doesn’t logically follow from the premises. Also known as a non sequitur.

“I have blue eyes therefore I know quantum physics.”

Impossible Expectations

Demanding unrealistic standards of certainty before acting on the science.


YOU'LL HIT THE GROUND IN 12 TO 15 SECONDS.
GET BACK TO ME WHEN YOU HAVE MORE CERTAINTY!
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Conspiracy Theories

Proposing a secret plan to implement a nefarious scheme such as hiding a truth or perpetuating misinformation.

Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

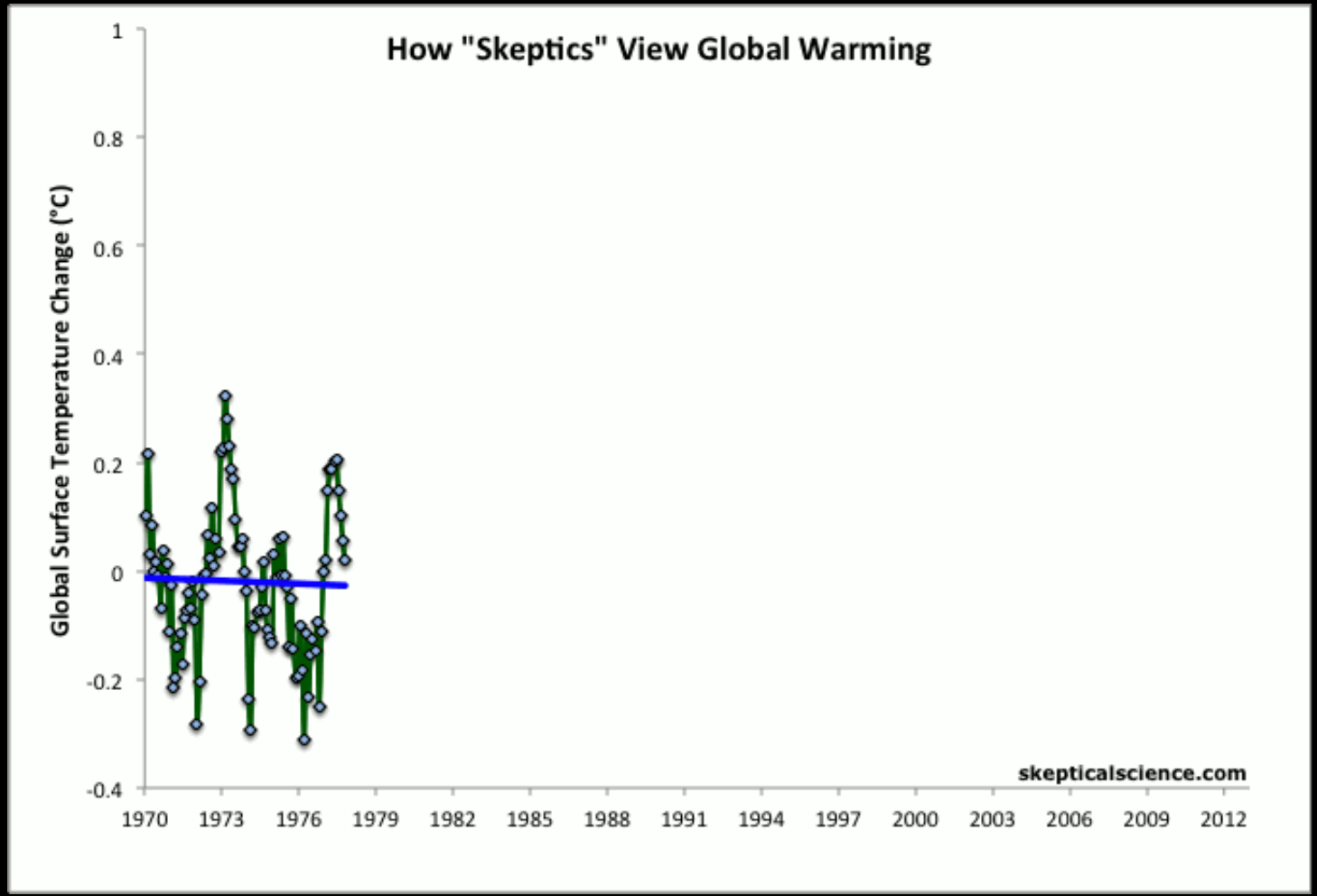
The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive.

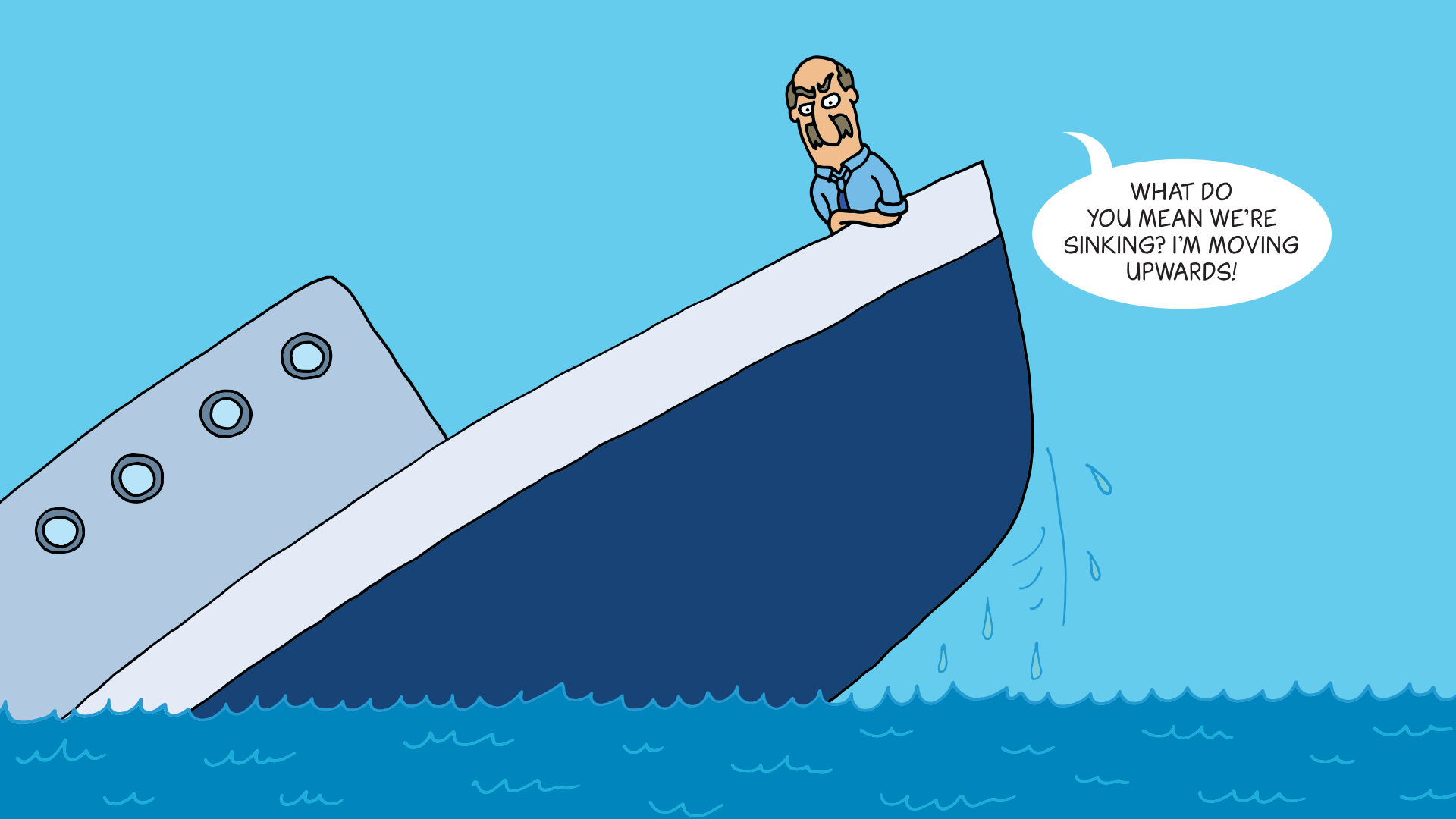
2:15 PM · Nov 6, 2012 · Twitter Web Client

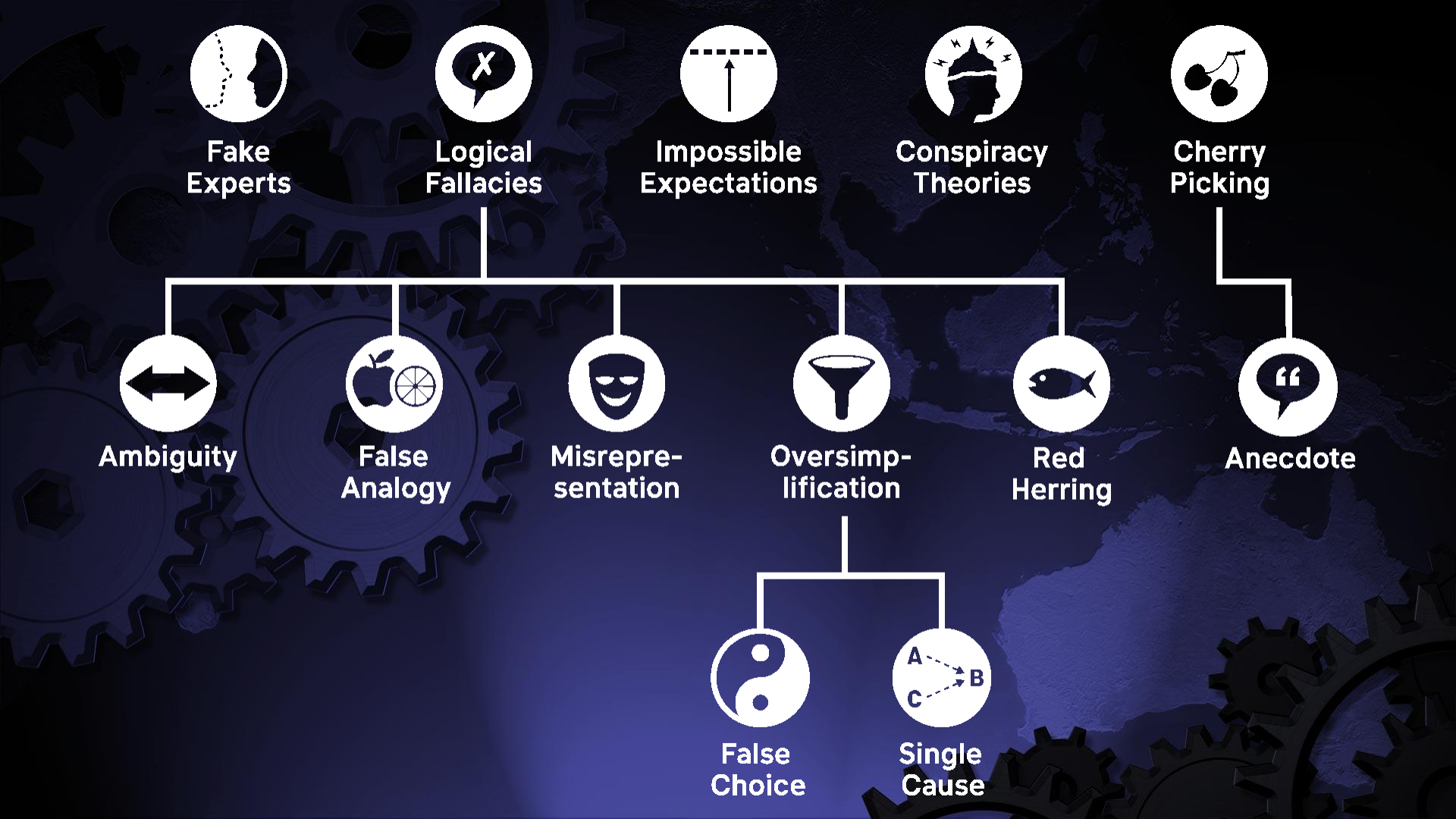
96.7K Retweets **64.7K** Likes

Cherry Picking

Carefully selecting data that appear to confirm one position while ignoring other data that contradicts that position.


How "Skeptics" View Global Warming
Global Surface Temperature Change (°C)
1
0.8
0.6
0.4
0.2
0
-0.2
-0.4
1970
1973
1976
1979
1982
1985
1988
1991
1994
1997
2000
2003
2006
2009
2012
skepticalscience.com


WHAT DO YOU MEAN WE'RE SINKING? I'M MOVING UPWARDS!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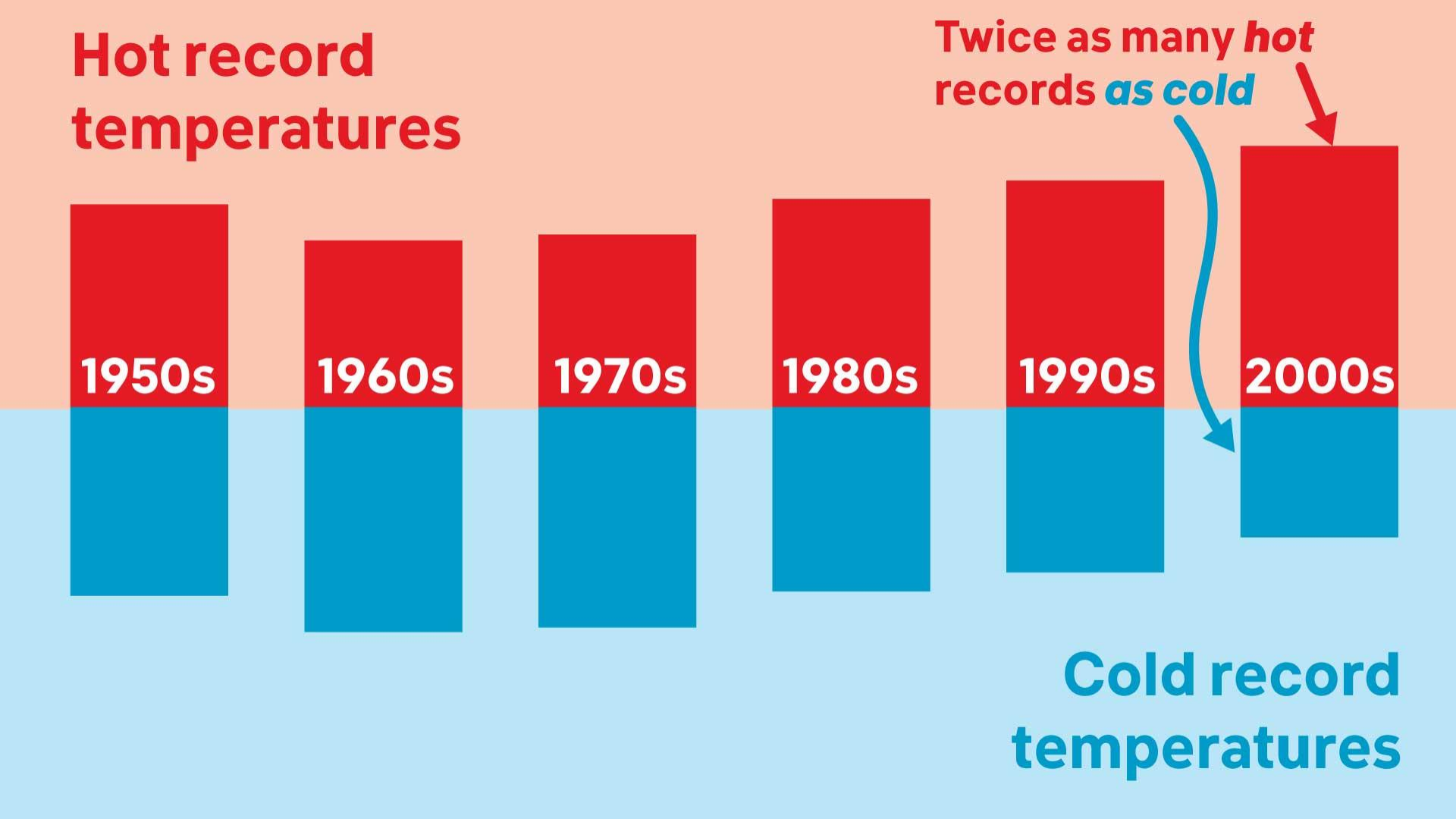
Single Cause

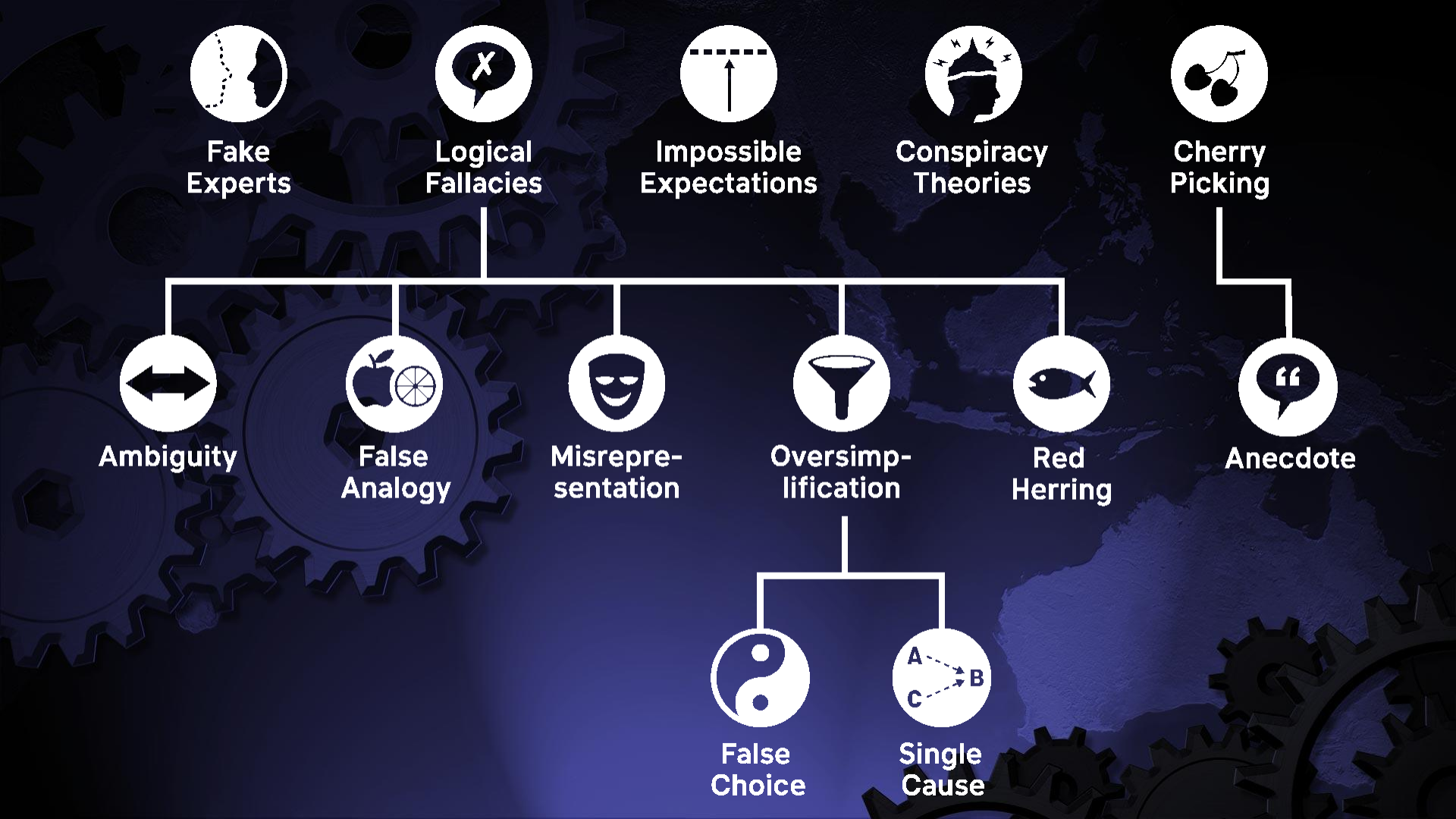
Anecdote

Using personal experience or isolated examples instead of sound arguments or compelling evidence.

“My brother was in an unhappy marriage—getting married is a bad idea.”

IT'S COLD...
...GLOBAL WARMING DOESN'T EXIST!
crankyuncle.com


Hot record temperatures
Twice as many hot records as cold
1950s
1960s
1970s
1980s
1990s
2000s
Cold record temperatures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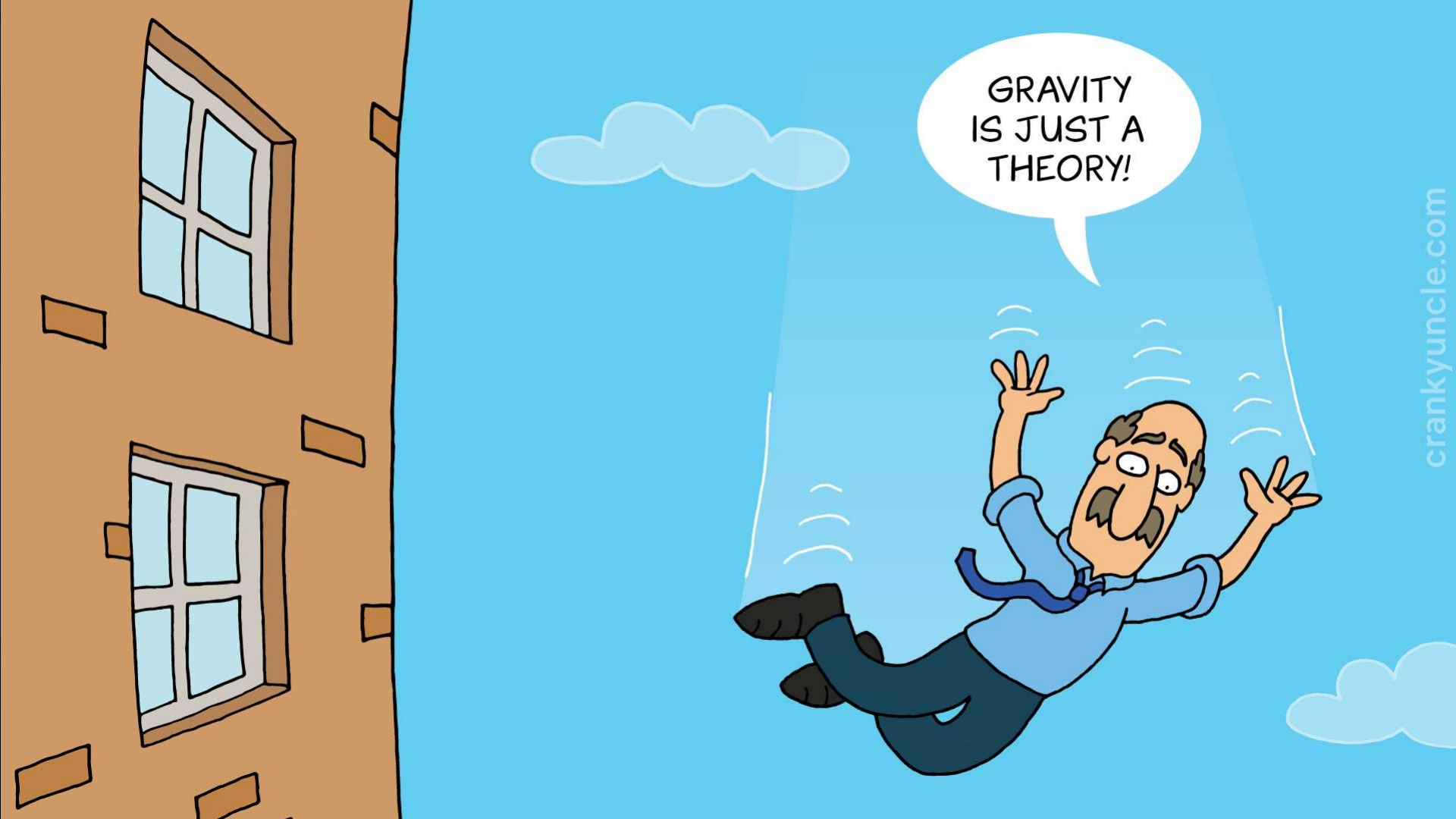
Ambiguity

Using ambiguous language in order to lead to a misleading conclusion.

“All trees have bark. Dogs bark. Therefore dogs are trees.”


GRAVITY IS JUST A THEORY!
crankyuncle.com

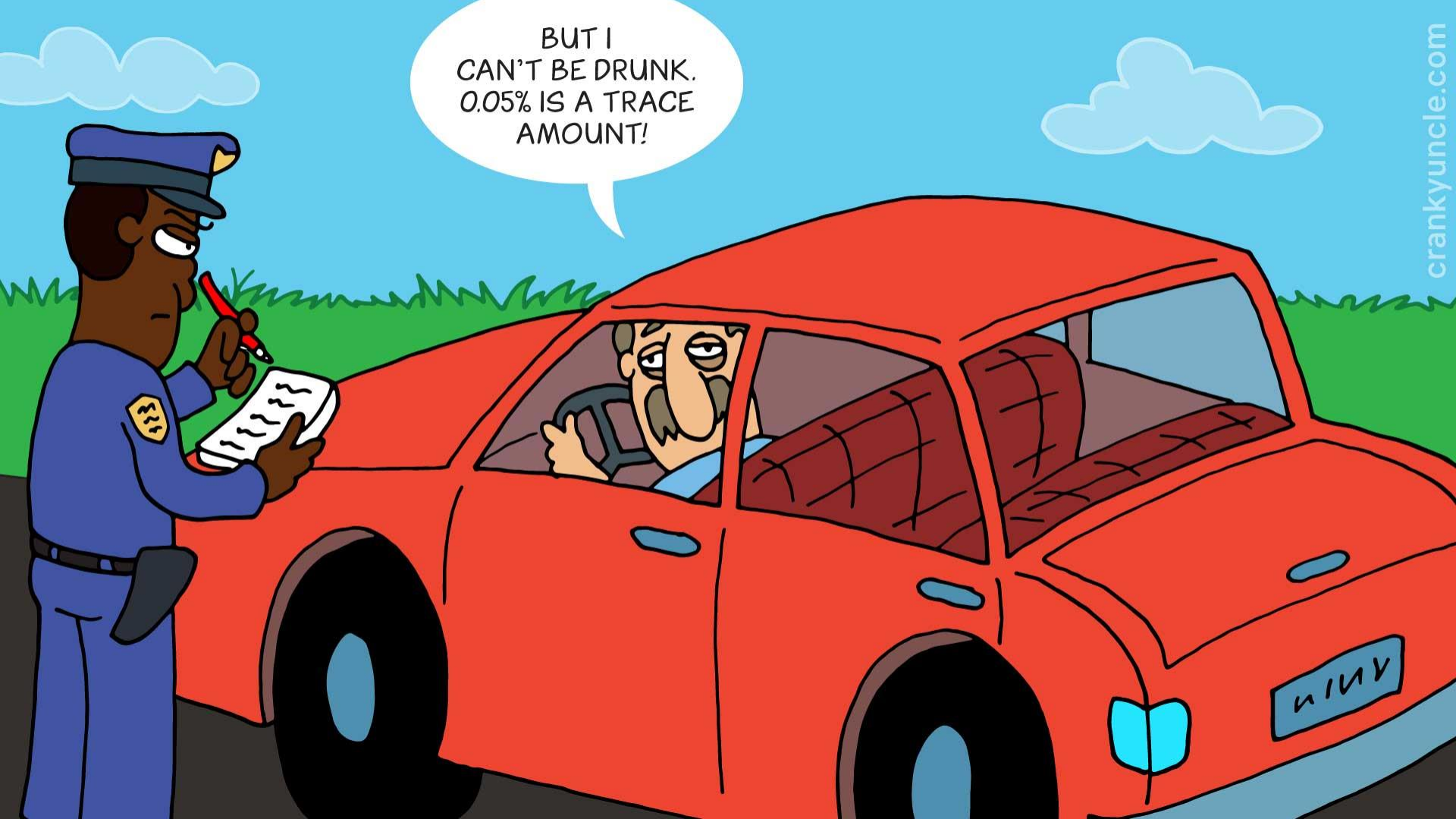
“Thermometer readings have uncertainty so we don’t know whether global warming is happening.”

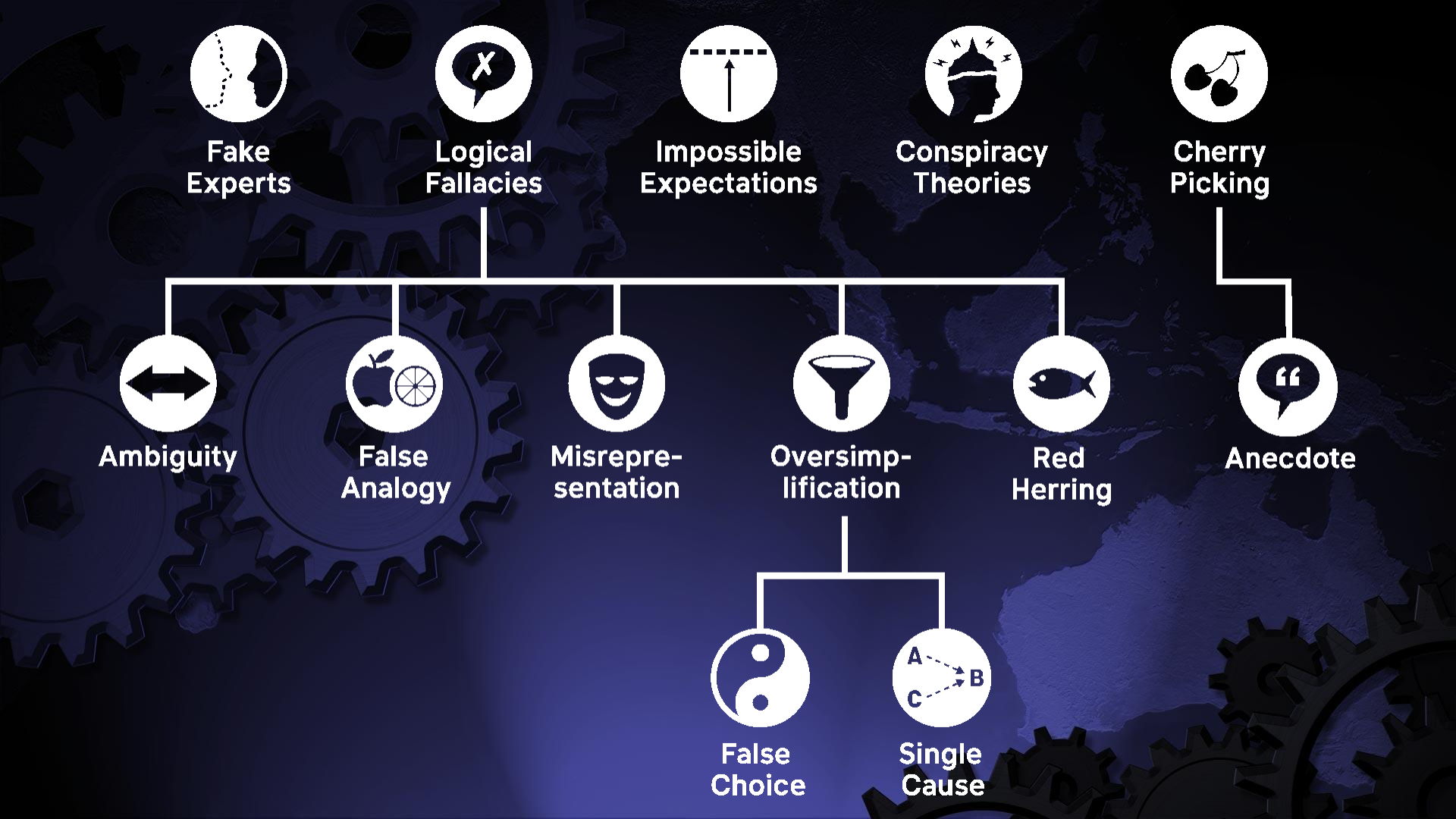
Red Herring

Deliberately diverting attention to an irrelevant point to distract from a more important point.

“We shouldn’t drink water. It’s the leading cause of drowning!”

“CO_2 is only 0.04 percent of the atmosphere so can’t have a significant effect.”


BUT I CAN'T BE DRUNK. 0.05% IS A TRACE AMOUNT!
crankyuncle.com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Oversimplification

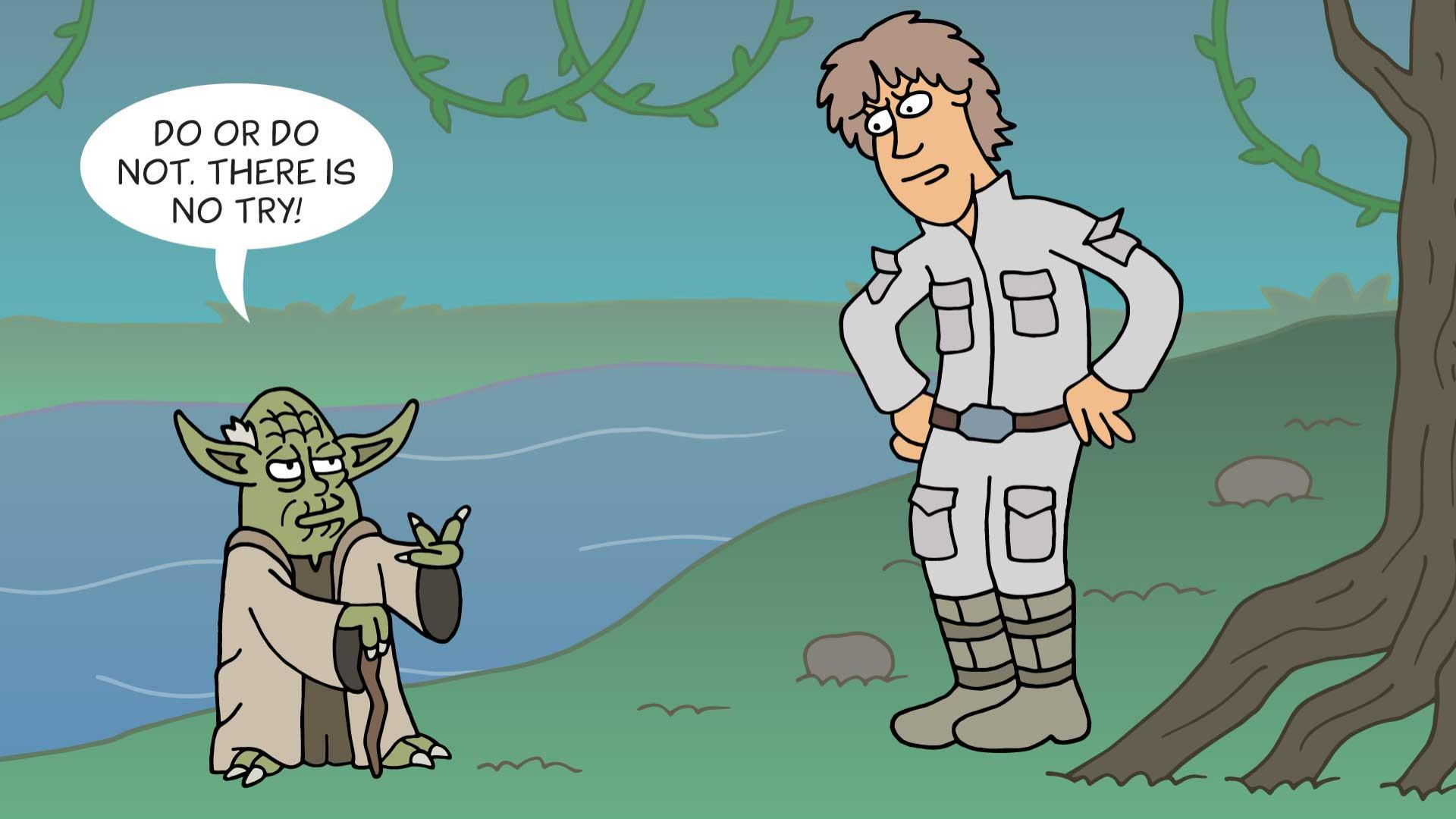
Simplifying a situation in such a way as to distort understanding, leading to erroneous conclusions.

“CO_2 is plant food so emitting CO_2 is good for plants.”

GRANDPA, I FEEL SICK!
KEEP EATING THAT HEALTHY CALCIUM!
crankyuncle.com

False Choice

Presenting two options as the only possibilities, when other possibilities exist. Also known as a false dichotomy.


DO OR DO NOT. THERE IS NO TRY!

Which is true?

Chickens come from eggs

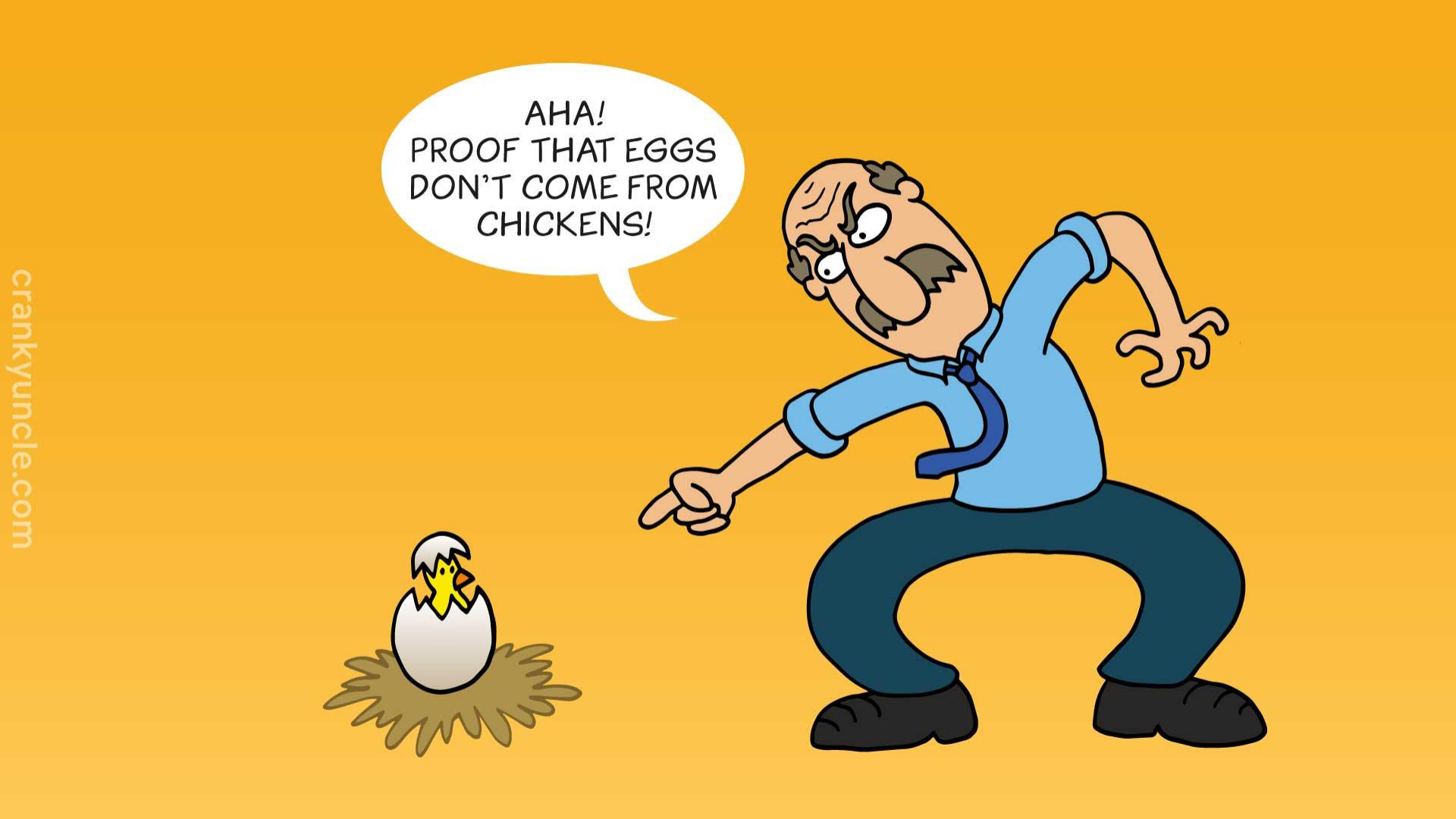
Eggs come from chickens

Both

Which is true?

Chickens come from eggs

Eggs come from chickens



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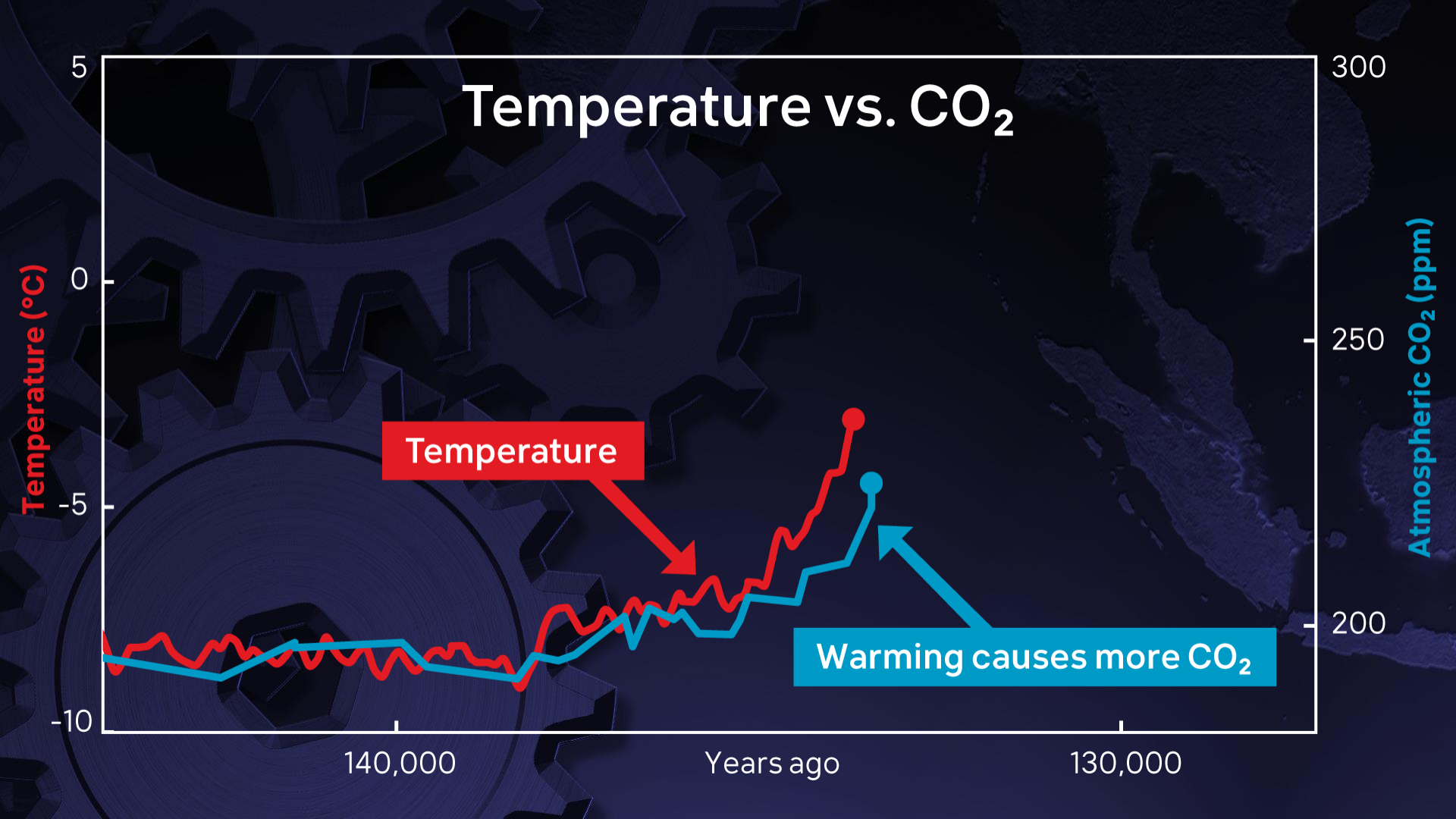

Temperature vs. CO_2
5
0
-5
-10
Temperature (°C)
300
250
200
Atmospheric CO_2 (ppm)
Temperature
Warming causes more CO_2
140,000
Years ago
130,000

Principia Scientific INTERNATIONAL

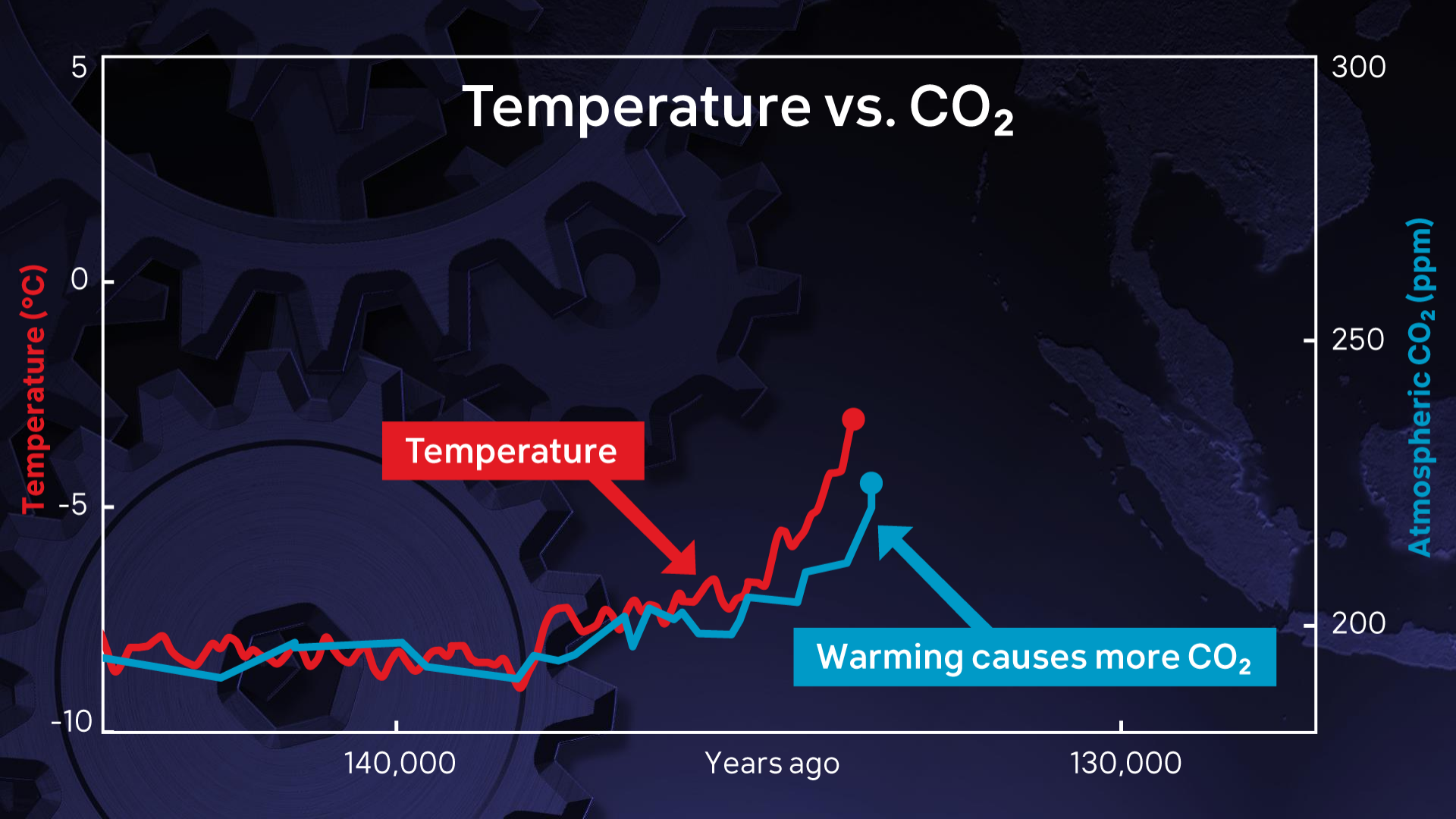
"…CO_2 actually lags T, proving CO_2 cannot cause T changes at all. Rather T causes CO_2."

A
T

Pu

Wr

Man-made global warming promoters claim the high correlation between carbon dioxide (CO_2) and atmospheric temperature (T) in the 420,000 year ice core record proves CO_2 causes T to change. Herein is demonstrated how the evidence conflicts with that belief.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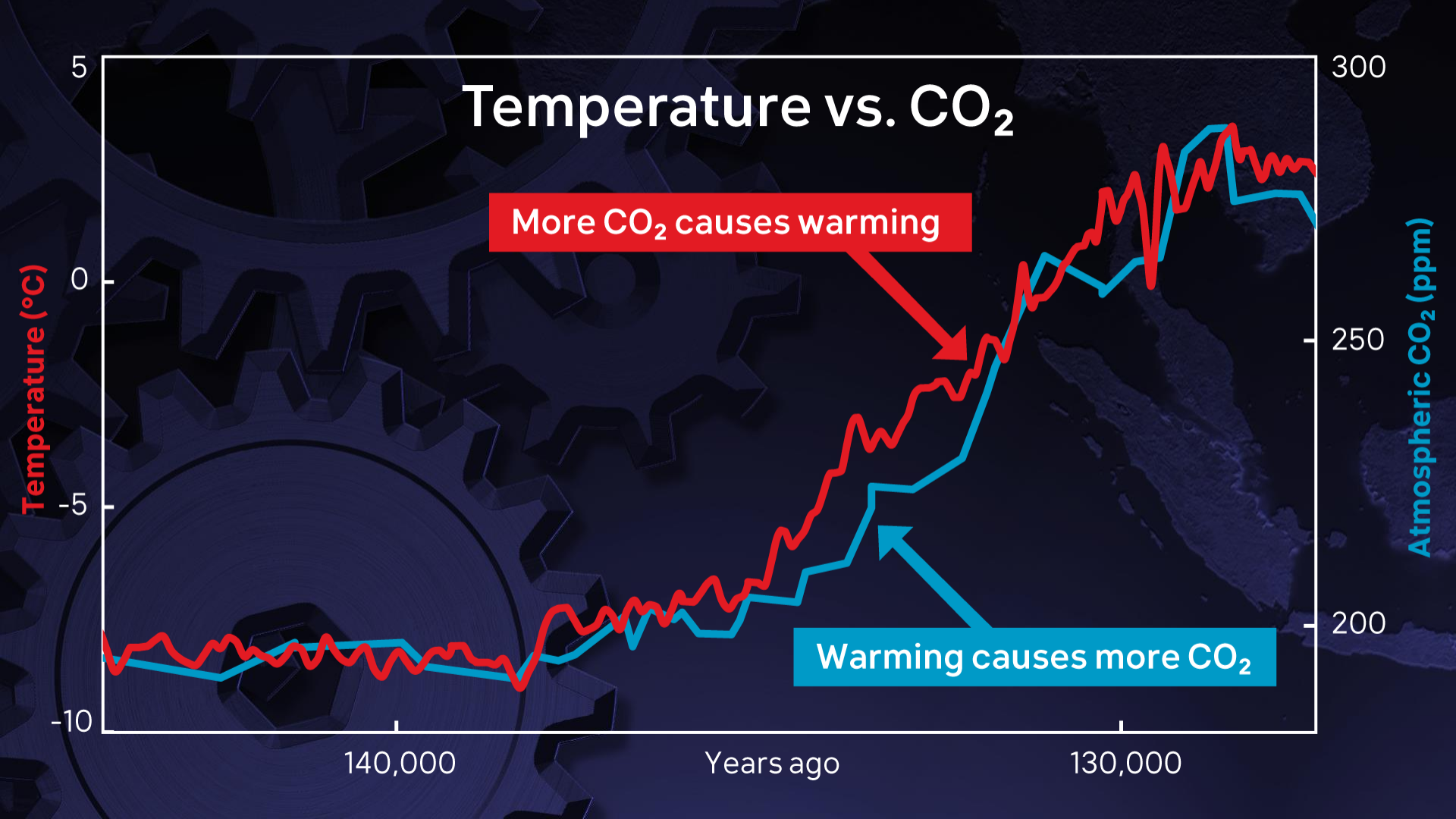
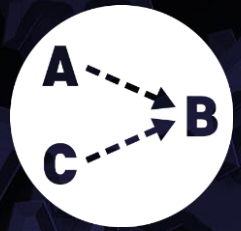
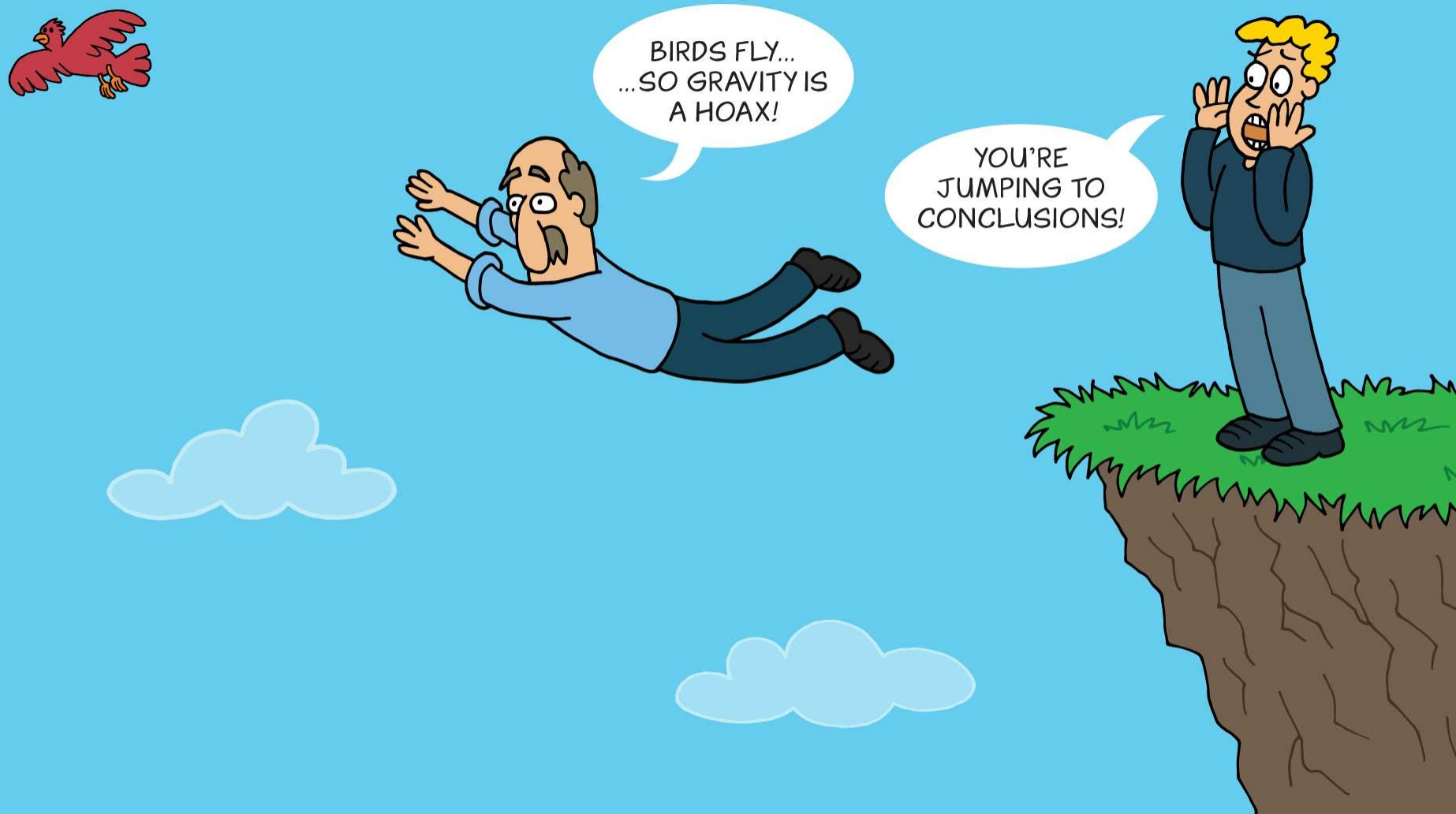
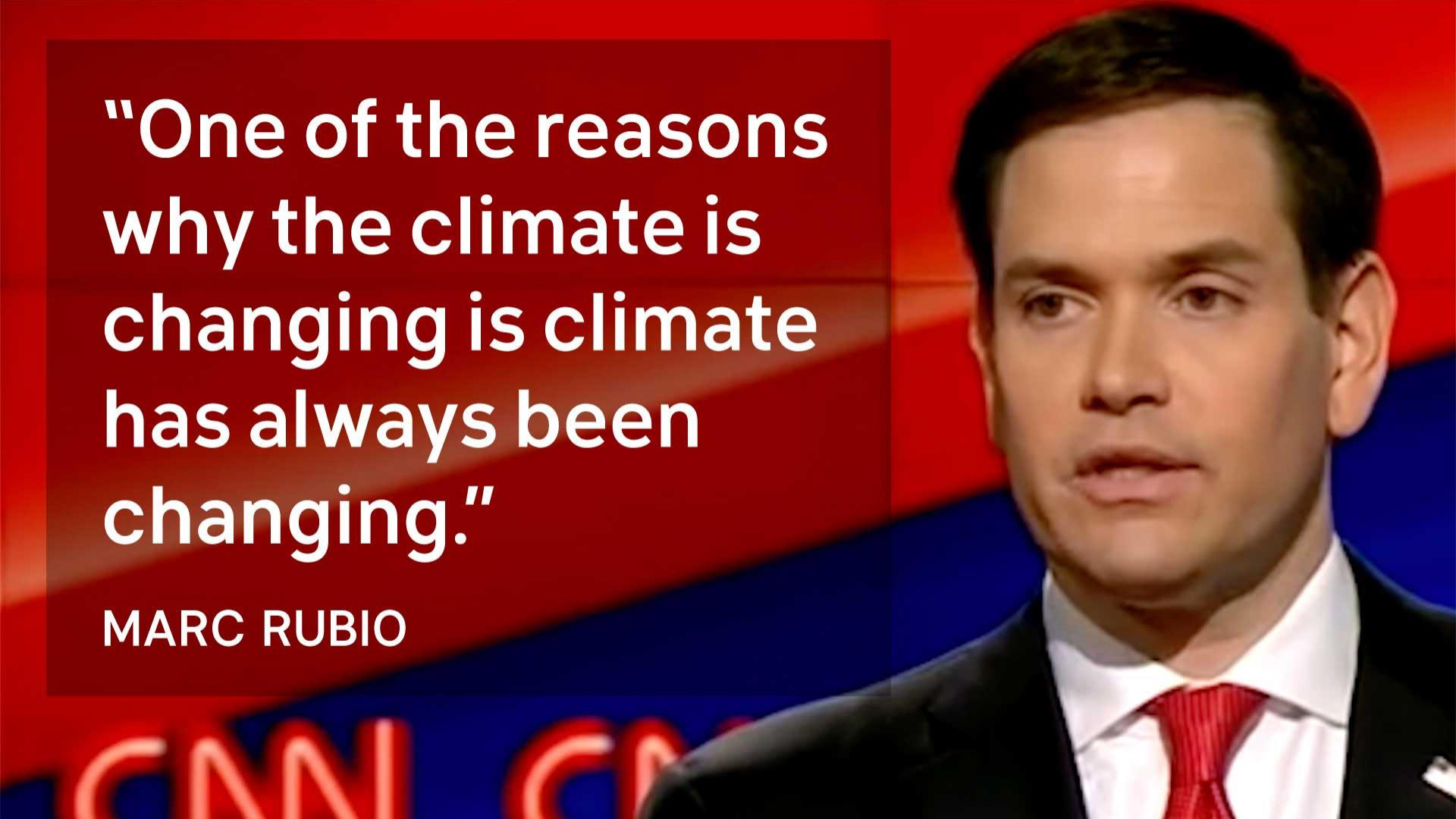

Temperature vs. CO_2
More CO_2 causes warming
Warming causes more CO_2
Temperature (°C)
Atmospheric CO_2 (ppm)
5
0
-5
-10
300
250
200
140,000
Years ago
130,000



Single Cause

Assuming a single cause or reason when there might be multiple causes or reasons.


BIRDS FLY...
...SO GRAVITY IS A HOAX!
YOU'RE JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS!


"One of the reasons why the climate is changing is climate has always been changing."
MARC RUBIO

One of the reasons why the climate is changing...

...is climate has always been changing.

This person died of natural causes...

...because people have always died of natural causes.