

**DC3**

Cyber Training Academy

COMMON LOGICAL FALLACIES

Adapted from *The Applied Critical Thinking Handbook*



Ad Hominem | Occurs when someone tries to attack a person, and not a position.



Appeal to Fear or Emotions | Occurs when language is emotionally charged to distract the audience from relevant reasons and evidence.



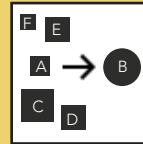
Appeal to the Masses or Popularity | Occurs when an assertion is made that if something is good for everyone else, it must be good for you too. Marketing and advertisements usually make this claim.



Appeal to Questionable Authority | Occurs when the authority we use to support the premises is actually the wrong authority for the issue at hand. It's akin to "hiding behind" someone/something famous, in the hopes that that alone will sell the argument.

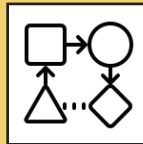


Begging the Question | An argument in which the conclusion is assumed in the reasoning (vice explicitly stated). A fallacy of deductive reasoning. "Accept this as true: the premise from which it comes is true!"



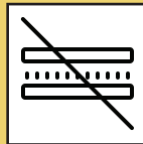
Causal Oversimplification |

Explaining an event by relying on causal factors that are insufficient to account for the event, or by overemphasizing the role of one or more of these factors.



Confusion of Cause and Effect |

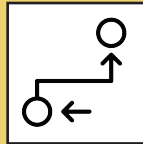
Confusing the cause with the effect of an event or failing to recognize that the two events may be influencing each other.



Equivocation | A key word is used with two or more meanings in an argument such that the argument fails to make sense once the shifts in meaning are recognized.



Explaining by Naming | Falsely assuming that because you have provided a name for some event or behavior, that you have also adequately explained the event.



False Cause | The presumption that a real or perceived relationship between things means that one is the cause of the other.



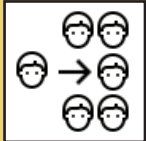
False dichotomy | Occurs when someone presents a complex situation in black and white terms—i.e., they only present two alternatives where many exist. The logic fault here is that there is much more to the argument than the watered-down version presented. Rather than allow watered-down arguments, critical thinkers actually need to widen the aperture to determine the best possible set of options.



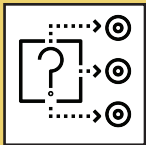
Faulty or Weak Analogy | Occurs when an author uses an analogy to communicate a concept, but the analogy used is not strong enough to support the conclusion being drawn.



Glittering Generality | The use of vague emotionally appealing virtue words that dispose us to approve something without closely examining the reasons.



Hasty Generalization Fallacy | Related to anchor adjustment fallacy. A fallacy of inductive reasoning. A person drawing a conclusion about a large group based on experiences with only a few members of the group.



Neglect of a Common Cause | Failure to recognize that two events may be related because of the effects of a common third factor.



Post Hoc Fallacy | Related to False Cause. Occurs when someone argues that because two events occurred together and one followed the other closely in time, then the first event caused the second. It's an appeal to believe a cause-and-effect relationship that does not actually occur.



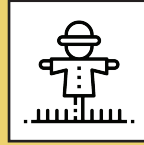
Red Herring | Occurs when the author diverts the reader's attention with distracting information that is flashy, eye-catching, and generally not relevant to the topic at hand.



Searching for the Perfect Solution | Falsely assuming that because part of a problem would remain after a solution is tried, the solution should therefore not be adopted.



Slippery Slope | Occurs when the conclusion of an argument rests upon an alleged chain reaction and there isn't sufficient reason to conclude that the chain reaction will actually take place. Unfortunately, hypothesizing often requires us to speculate in this arena.



Straw Person | Distorting an opponent's point of view so that it is easy to attack; thus attacking a point of view that does not truly exist.

Additional Resources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_fallacies

<https://yourlogicalfallacyis.com/>

<https://www.logicallyfallacious.com/>

<https://www.logicalfallacies.info/>

Icons sourced from:

Icons8.com

Cause by Ralf Schmitzer from the Noun Project

Cause by Nithinan Tatah from the Noun Project

Scarecrow by Petai Jantrapoon from the Noun Project