**LOGICAL FALLACIES OVERVIEW**Understanding how logic works and how people work themselves into logical fallacies is vital. Basically, this understanding protects your brain.

As a writer, avoiding false logic makes your arguments more persuasive and gives you more credibility because you stay within your own sphere of knowledge.

**Sentence-level Logical Fallacies**

A **quick logic check** is to look for or avoid overly reductive language or claims. These are words that oversimplify a claim which means to “simplify or reduce to the point of causing misrepresentation, misconception, or error.”

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| --- | --- |
| *Overly Reduced/Hyperbolic Language* (This is ineffective and can lead to dishonest claims) | *Qualified/Nuanced/Limited Language* (keeps your claim limited to what you can prove reasonably) |
| **All, Never, Always, All of the time, Everyone,**  **No one, Only** | **Some, Many, Most, Sometimes, Regularly, from time to time,** |

Round of Presentations: [www.Yourlogicalfallacyis.com](http://www.Yourlogicalfallacyis.com)

* 6 groups – each group pick a logical fallacy to present
* Translate into everyday English / Put into your own words
* Come up with 2 examples of your own
* When Presenting: Read the website version. Share your translation. Explain your examples.

**Systemic Cultural Fallacies** (False Logic on a Macro level, beyond an individual piece of communication)

Remember **Warrants** from Toulmin Model? When we discussed warrants—underlying beliefs or lenses—that people use to filter data, we mentioned that every claim has some sort of underlying warrant: Sometimes we can see it, but sometimes it is not immediately obvious.

These larger scale cultures of false logic are often developed over time and reinforced by social norms. Systemic cultural fallacies are not just a single text or a argument, but the creation of a culture of belief around that argument over time.

*Burke’s Key Points (An analysis of the Hitler’s techniques for causing systemic false logic)*

* Common enemy (Scapegoat)
  + Fear based on money/finances or religious differences
  + Purposeful denigration, weakening, or insult of other leaders as impotent
  + Casting oneself as the healer or doctor – “Only I can fix this” “only my way works”
* 6 parts of his Unification: Geographical materialization, Unifying voice, Projection devices, Inborn dignity, Symbolic rebirth, Commercial use
* Caricaturing of Hero and Villain
* ….What else do you see in the reading?