Name(s):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Logic: Fallacies Quiz

Identify each of the following fallacies.

1. Either we require forced sterilization of Third World peoples or the world population will explode and all of us will die. We certainly don’t want to die, so we must require forced sterilization.
2. Erica Evans, who takes orders at the local Taco Bell, argues persuasively in favor of increasing the minimum wage. But this is exactly what you would expect. Erica is paid the minimum wage, and if the minimum wage is increased, then her own salary will go up. Obviously Erica’s arguments are worthless.
3. Every sentence in this paragraph is well written. Therefore, the paragraph is well written.
4. The school board argues that our schools are in desperate need of repair. But the real reason our students are falling behind is that they spend too much time on their smartphones. Becoming educated means a lot more than learning how to scroll up and down. The school board should send a letter to the parents urging them to confiscate their kids’ smartphones.
5. James said that he saw a picture of a beautiful girl stashed in Stephen’s locker. We can only conclude that Stephen has broken the rules, because girls are not allowed in the locker room.
6. The position open in the accounting department should be given to Frank Thompson. Frank has six hungry children to feed, and his wife desperately needs an operation to save her eyesight.
7. You should read Irving Stone’s latest novel right away. It’s sold over a million copies, and practically everyone in the Manhattan cocktail circuit is talking about it.
8. An athlete is a human being. Therefore, a good athlete is a good human being.

Now, do the following:

1. Give an example of a formal fallacy.
2. Give an example of a fallacy that is a deductive, valid argument.