

# Fallacies

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1. Giving money to charity is the right thing to do. So charities have a right to our money.
2. Large scale polls were taken in Florida, California, and Maine and it was found that an average of 55% of those polled spent at least fourteen days a year near the ocean. So, it can be safely concluded that 55% of all Americans spend at least fourteen days near the ocean each year.
3. Joe and Drew are talking about flying. Joe: "When I was flying back to school, the pilot came on the intercom and told us that the plane was having engine trouble. I looked out the window and I saw smoke billowing out of the engine nearest me. We had to make an emergency landing and there were fire trucks everywhere. I had to spend the next six hours sitting in the airport waiting for a flight. I was lucky I didn't die! I'm never flying again." Drew: "So how are you going to get home over Christmas break?" Joe: "I'm going to drive. That will be a lot safer than flying." Drew: "I don't think so. You are much more likely to get injured or killed driving than flying." Joe: "I don't buy that! You should have seen the smoke pouring out of that engine! I'm never getting on one of those death traps again!"
4. Active euthanasia is morally acceptable. It is a decent, ethical thing to help another human being escape suffering through death.
5. A plane is a carpenter's tool, and the Boeing 737 is a plane, hence the Boeing 737 is a carpenter's tool.
6. Sam is riding her bike in her home town in Maine, minding her own business. A station wagon comes up behind her and the driver starts beeping his horn and then tries to force her off the road. As he goes by, the driver yells "get on the sidewalk where you belong!" Sam sees that the car has Ohio plates and concludes that all Ohio drivers are jerks.
7. A living cell is organic material, so the chemicals making up the cell must also be organic material.
8. Bill and Jane are talking about buying a computer. Jane: "I've been thinking about getting a computer. I'm really tired of having to wait in the library to write my papers." Bill: "What sort of computer do you want to get?" Jane: "Well, it has to be easy to use, have a low price and have decent processing power. I've been thinking about getting a Kiwi Fruit 2200. I read in that consumer magazine that they have been found to be very reliable in six independent industry studies." Bill: "I wouldn't get the Kiwi Fruit. A friend of mine bought one a month ago to finish his master's thesis. He was halfway through it when smoke started pouring out of the CPU. He didn't get his thesis done on time and he lost his financial aid. Now he's working over at the Gut Boy Burger Warehouse." Jane: "I guess I won't go with the Kiwi!"

9. Sure I believe in God. People have believed in God for thousands of years so it seems clear that God must exist. After all, why else would the belief last so long?
10. Senator Jill: "We'll have to cut education funding this year." Senator Bill: "Why?" Senator Jill: "Well, either we cut the social programs or we live with a huge deficit and we can't live with the deficit."
11. Bill: "I believe that abortion is morally wrong." Dave: "Of course you would say that, you're a priest." Bill: "What about the arguments I gave to support my position?" Dave: "Those don't count. Like I said, you're a priest, so you have to say that abortion is wrong. Further, you are just a lackey to the Pope, so I can't believe what you say."
12. Criminal actions are illegal, and all murder trials are criminal actions, thus all murder trials are illegal.
13. Bill thinks that welfare is needed in some cases. His friends in the Young Republicans taunt him every time he makes his views known. He accepts their views in order to avoid rejection.
14. America uses more electricity per year than South Africa. Bill lives in America. Nelson lives in South Africa. So Bill uses more electricity than Nelson.
15. Two business people are having a discussion. James: "So, what is this new plan?" Biff: "Well, the latest thing in marketing techniques is the GK method. It is the latest thing out of the think tank. It is so new that the ink on the reports is still drying." James: "Well, our old marketing method has been quite effective. I don't like the idea of jumping to a new method without a good reason." Biff: "Well, we know that we have to stay on the cutting edge. That means new ideas and new techniques have to be used. The GK method is new, so it will do better than that old, dusty method."
16. Come on, you like beef, potatoes, and green beans, so you will like this beef, potato, and green bean casserole.
17. My fellow Americans...there has been some talk that the government is overstepping its bounds by allowing police to enter peoples' homes without the warrants traditionally required by the Constitution. However, these are dangerous times and dangerous times require appropriate actions. I have in my office thousands of letters from people who let me know, in no uncertain terms, that they heartily endorse the war against crime in these United States. Because of this overwhelming approval, it is evident that the police are doing the right thing.
18. My roommate said her philosophy class was hard, and the one I'm in is hard, too. All philosophy classes must be hard!
19. Bill: "Jill and I both support having prayer in public schools." Jill: "Hey, I never said that!" Bill: "You're not an atheist are you Jill?"
20. A tiger eats more food than a human being. Therefore, tigers, as a group, eat more food than do all the humans on the earth.
21. Bill says that he likes the idea that people should work for their welfare when they can. His friends laugh at him, accuse him of fascist leanings, and threaten to ostracize him from their group. He decides to recant and abandon his position to avoid rejection.