

Understanding LOGICAL FALLACIES



THE DARING ENGLISH TEACHER

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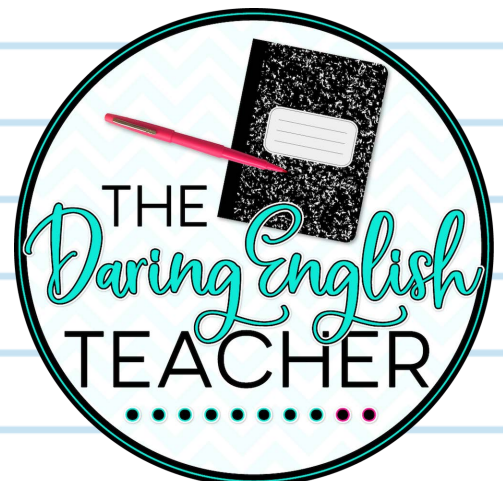
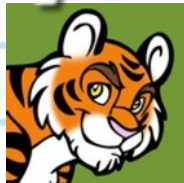


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Understanding LOGICAL FALLACIES

SUGGESTED LESSON PLAN

Day	Lesson	Standard
1-3	<p>Teach slides Logical Fallacies PowerPoint. This is the entire PowerPoint. If there is time remaining, have the students review the fallacies and try to find examples of fallacies in speeches, informational text, or magazine ads. They can even write their own fallacies.</p> <p>Teaching Tip: Pause between each logical fallacy and provide students with enough time to brainstorm 1-3 examples of each fallacy. Students can take notes on their own paper or use the reference guide to add in more information about each fallacy.</p> <p>Extension Idea: Encourage students to look for logical fallacies in media (advertising, social media, television, magazines, etc.) and bring into class to share. Have students complete the doodle notes after the lecture to help solidify student knowledge.</p>	RI.(7-12).5 RI.(7-12).8
4	<p>Briefly review slides 1-48 of the Fallacies PowerPoint. Using old magazines, newspapers, or political ads, have the students work in small groups to complete the scavenger hunt on page 8. This usually takes the entire day.</p> <p>I prefer to have the students cut out the advertisements and staple them to the assignment sheet. Students can also use persuasive and historical speeches for this assignment.</p> <p>Teaching Tip: Encourage students to write a brief paragraph explaining each logical fallacy. This will increase their understanding.</p> <p>Extension Idea: Print out or provide students with digital copies of current texts you are reading in class. Connect the logical fallacy unit to material you are currently reading or material you've already read throughout the year. This will reactivate student knowledge about the content and literature.</p>	RI.(7-12).5 RI.(7-12).8
5	<p>Briefly review slides 1-48 of the Fallacies PowerPoint. Give students the worksheet on page 7. Students can either work individually or in groups on this assignment.</p>	RI.(7-12).5 RI.(7-12).8
6	<p>Briefly review logical fallacies. Go over the answers for page 7. Play Logical Fallacy B-I-N-G-O using the examples that the students presented to the class. Usually I will use a different class' examples to make the game more challenging.</p> <p>Quiz the Students. At the end of the day, I give them the quiz on page 10. The quiz is brief and usually takes no more than 15 minutes. The answer key is on page 12.</p>	RI.(7-12).5 RI.(7-12).8

LOGICAL FALLACIES

WHY DO WE STUDY
FALLACIES?

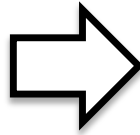
1.

2.

Sketch Notes

WHAT IS A LOGICAL FALLACY?

LOGICAL
FALLACIES



NAME

DEFINITION

EXAMPLE

REMEMBER

NAME

DEFINITION

EXAMPLE

LOGICAL FALLACIES 3-COLUMN CHART

Directions: For each fallacy, identify the definition and provide an example.

Logical Fallacy	Definition	Example
Ad hominem		
Ad populum		
Begging the Question		
Circular Reasoning		
False Analogy		
Hasty Generalizations		
Non-Sequitur		
Post hoc ergo propter hoc		
Red Herring		
Slippery Slope		
Straw Man		

LOGICAL FALLACIES REFERENCE SHEET

Ad hominem – An attack on the person, or the character of the person, rather than his or her arguments or opinions.

Ad populum – A fallacious argument that appeals to the popularity of the claim as a reason to accept it. In Latin, ad populum means, “appeal to the people.”

Begging the Question – An argument that assumes that the premise of the claim is true. This is a type of circular reasoning.

Circular Reasoning – A fallacious argument that restates the argument or claim rather than proving it. The argument goes in a circle. The arguer assumes what he or she is attempting to prove.

False Analogy – This is an argument that is based on a misleading comparison.

Hasty Generalizations – A conclusion, or a claim, that is based on insufficient evidence. This happens when the arguer rushes to a conclusion before having enough relevant facts.

Non-Sequitur – This type of fallacy occurs when a conclusion does not follow from its premises. In Latin non-sequitur means, “it does not follow.”

Post hoc ergo propter hoc – This logical fallacy occurs when it is assumed that one thing caused another when the two events happen sequentially. In Latin, post hoc ergo propter hoc means, “after this, therefore because of this.” Shortened to “post hoc.”

Red Herring – This is a logical fallacy that is a diversion tactic that leads people away from the key or real issues. To create a red herring, people will oppose arguments rather than addressing them. Leads the reader or audience to a false conclusion.

Slippery Slope – This fallacy occurs when a person argues that an event will inevitably happen without providing any examples that this may happen. In most cases, a series of steps is intentionally left out.

Straw Man – This logical fallacy happens when someone oversimplifies or misrepresents another person's argument in order to make it easier to attack.

LOGICAL FALLACY IDENTIFICATION

Directions: Each scenario below includes a logical fallacy. Correctly identify which logical fallacy is present by writing the fallacy on the line next to the scenario.

1. _____ Our teacher is a good teacher because he is our teacher.
2. _____ Even though winter hasn't even started yet, I can just tell it is going to be a great winter.
3. _____ The legalization of marijuana will lead to the legalization of all street drugs and many people will overdose and die.
4. _____ I shouldn't have to pay my speeding ticket. There are so many worse crimes than speeding. Police officers should chase dangerous murderers instead.
5. _____ Believing in Santa is universal because everyone believes in Santa.
6. _____ A lawyer attacking a defendant's character rather than questioning the defendant based on the case.
7. _____ Babies are like the elderly because they are both bald.
8. _____ The legal driving age should be lowered to 14 because that is what the majority of US teenagers believe.
9. _____ "How can you give relationship advice when you've never been in a relationship longer than two weeks?"
10. _____ Three minutes into the movie, some patrons left because they thought the movie was too boring.
11. _____ "If we don't conserve fuel now, there won't be any left in 20 years."
12. _____ Paranormal phenomena exist because I have had experiences that can only be described as paranormal.
13. _____ Pencils help you write. A drinking straw looks like a pen. Therefore, drinking straws can help you write.
14. _____ "If you don't buy these shoes now, you won't be cool because all of the cool kids have these."
15. _____ William Larson grew up in poverty. Therefore, he will make a fine President of the United States.

LOGICAL FALLACY SCAVENGER HUNT

Directions: In small groups, look through historical speeches, political campaign speeches, newspaper ads, magazine ads, and informational texts to find examples of each logical fallacy. Identify the fallacy source, and then explain why it is a fallacy.

Logical Fallacy	Fallacy Source	Explain Why This Is An Example Of This Fallacy
Ad hominem		
Ad populum		
Begging the Question		
Circular Reasoning		
False Analogy		
Hasty Generalizations		
Non-Sequitur		
Post hoc ergo propter hoc		
Red Herring		
Slippery Slope		
Straw Man		

LOGICAL FALLACY B I N G O GAME

Directions: Write one logical fallacy in each of the eight blank spaces below. Then mark off each square when a logical fallacy is presented. To win Logical Fallacy B-I-N-G-O, you must have three spaces marked off (either vertically, horizontally, or diagonally) and be able to correctly explain why each example was that fallacy.

	FREE SPACE	

LOGICAL FALLACY QUIZ

Directions: Identify the logical fallacy by writing the letter of its corresponding description.

Logical Fallacies

Descriptions

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. _____ Ad hominem | A. a fallacy that is a diversion tactic |
| 2. _____ Ad populum | B. an argument based on insufficient evidence |
| 3. _____ Begging the Question | C. an argument that asserts something will inevitably happen |
| 4. _____ Circular Reasoning | D. an argument that assumes the premise of the claim is true |
| 5. _____ False Analogy | E. an argument that is based on a misleading comparison |
| 6. _____ Hasty Generalizations | F. an argument that oversimplifies or misrepresents an idea only to attack it |
| 7. _____ Non-Sequitur | G. an argument that restates the argument or claim rather than proving it |
| 8. _____ Post hoc ergo propter hoc | H. in Latin it means, "it does not follow." |
| 9. _____ Red Herring | I. in Latin, it means "against the man." |
| 10. _____ Slippery Slope | J. in Latin, it means "appeal to the people." |
| 11. _____ Straw Man | K. In Latin, it means, "after this, therefore because of this." |

Directions: Identify which type of logical fallacy is used. Write the logical fallacy in the space provided.

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 12. _____ | She took a drink of water from the fountain and the next day she was sick. The public drinking fountain must have made her sick. |
| 13. _____ | Senator Lewis says that we should not fund the missile attack program. I disagree. I don't understand why he wants to leave us defenseless like that. |
| 14. _____ | I broke a mirror earlier in the day, and then I received an F on my history final. Therefore, I received the F because of my bad luck of breaking the mirror. |
| 15. _____ | We admit that this measure is popular. But we also urge you to recognize that there are so many bond issues on this ballot that the whole thing is getting ridiculous. |
| 16. _____ | Fred, the German, stole my wallet. Therefore, all Germans are thieves. |
| 17. _____ | I shouldn't have to pay my parking ticket. There are far more dangerous offenses that people commit. They should be the ones to pay. |

LOGICAL FALLACY IDENTIFICATION KEY

Logical Fallacy Identification

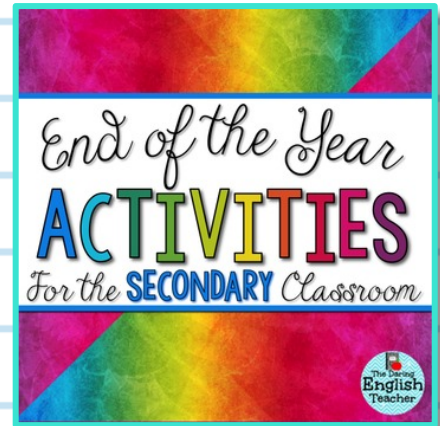
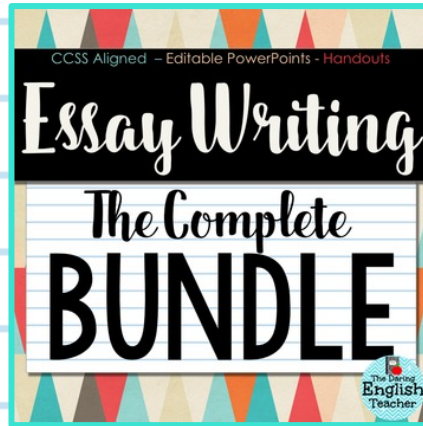
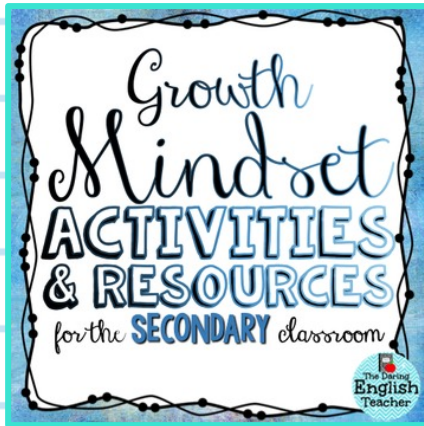
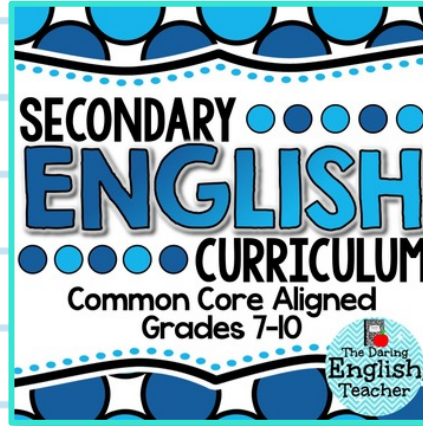
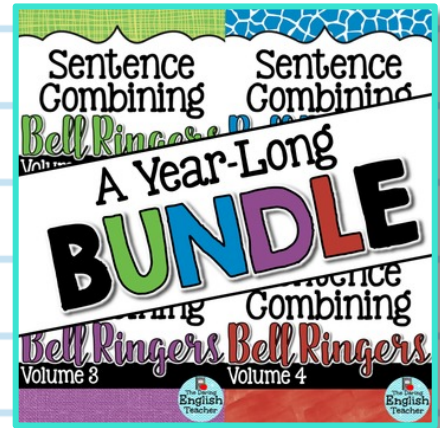
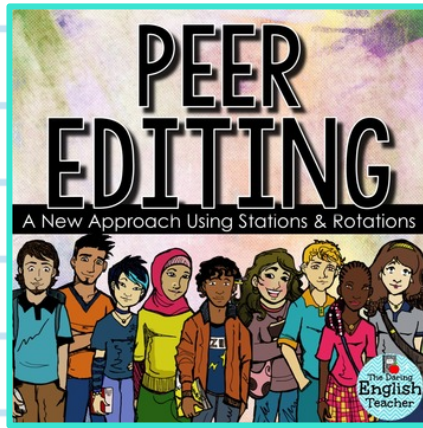
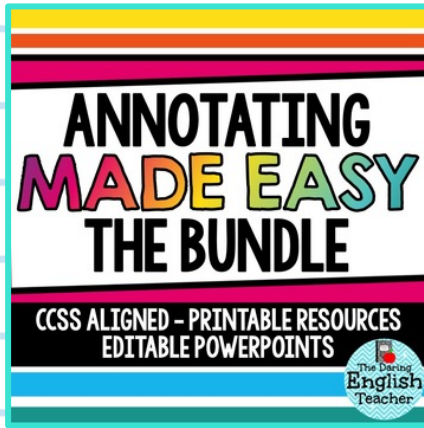
1. **Circular Reasoning** – This is an example of circular reasoning because the claim is supported by the claim rather than evidence.
2. **Hasty Generalizations** – This is an example of a hasty generalization because the claim is not supported with sufficient evidence. Rather, it is supported by a generalization.
3. **Slippery Slope** – This is an example of slippery slope because the arguer states that people will die from overdoses. The arguer does not provide any evidence that supports this but just makes an assumption based on the first step (legalizing marijuana).
4. **Red herring** – This is a red herring because the arguer takes the spotlight away from the issue (paying the speeding ticket) and places it on another (police chasing murderers).
5. **Begging the Question** – This is an example of begging the question because the claim (believing in Santa is universal) is supported by an assumption (everyone believes in Santa).
6. **Ad hominem** – This is an ad hominem because the lawyer is attacking the character's character rather than information relating to the case.
7. **False analogy** – This is false analogy because the arguer comparing babies to the elderly is based on false assumptions.
8. **Ad populum** – This is an example of ad populum because the claim is based on reasoning supported by popular belief.
9. **Ad hominem** – This is an example of an ad hominem because it is attacking the person rather than the evidence.
10. **Hasty Generalizations** – This is an example of a hasty generalization because the claim is not supported with sufficient evidence. Most likely, you don't know why they left the movie.
11. **Slippery Slope** - This is an example of slippery slope because the arguer states that we will not have any fuel left in 20 years. The arguer does not provide any evidence that supports this but just makes an assumption based on the first step (not conserving fuel now).
12. **Begging the Question** - This is an example of begging the question because the claim (paranormal phenomena exist) is supported by an assumption (that you experienced something described as a paranormal phenomena).
13. **False Analogy** – This is an example of false analogy because you are incorrectly making an analogy about a drinking straw to a pencil.
14. **Ad populum** - This is an example of ad populum because the claim is based on reasoning supported by popular belief (having these new shoes will make you cool because all the cool kids have them).
15. **Non-Sequitur** – This is an example of a non-sequitur because the claim is not followed logically by sequenced evidence.

LOGICAL FALLACY QUIZ ANSWER KEY

Logical Fallacies Quiz

1. I
2. J
3. D
4. G
5. E
6. B
7. H
8. K
9. A
10. C
11. F
12. Post hoc
13. Straw Man
14. Post hoc ergo propter hoc
15. Red herring
16. Hasty Generalizations
17. Red Herring

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