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BAELS3B

**Detecting Fallicies**

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| **Fallacy** | Example |
| 1. The Burden of Proof Fallacy | Cool was I and logical. Keen, calculating, perspicacious, acute and astute—I was all of these.  My brain was as powerful as a dynamo, precise as a chemist’s scales, as penetrating as a scalpel. And—think of it!—I only eighteen. |
| 2. The *Tu quoque* Fallacy | -Take, for example, Petey Bellows, my roommate at the university. Same age, same background, but dumb as an ox.  -Intelligent she was not. In fact, she veered in the opposite direction |
| 3. Ad hominem | A nice enough fellow, you understand, but nothing upstairs. Emotional type. Unstable.  Impressionable. Worst of all, a faddist. |
| 4. The Correlation/Causation Fallacy | One afternoon I found Petey lying on his bed with an expression of such distress on his face that I immediately diagnosed appendicitis. |
| 5. Dicto Simpliciter | Exercise is good. Therefore everybody should exercise. |
| 6. Hasty Generalization | -You can’t speak French. Petey Bellows can’t speak French. I must therefore conclude that nobody at the University of Minnesota can speak French.  - We have now spent five evenings together. We have gotten along splendidly. It is clear that we are well matched. |
| 7. Post Hoc | Let’s not take Bill on our picnic. Every time we take him out with us, it rains. |
| 8. Contradictory Premises. | If God can do anything, can He make a stone so heavy that He won’t be able to lift it?  “Of course,” she replied promptly.  “But if He can do anything, He can lift the stone,” I pointed out.  “Yeah,” she said thoughtfully. “Well, then I guess He can’t make the stone.” “But He can do anything,” |
| 9. The Affective fallacy | I had wasted one evening; I might as well waste another. |
| 10. Ad Misericordiam. | A man applies for a job. When the boss asks him what his qualifications are, he replies that he has a wife and six children at home, the wife is a helpless cripple, the children have nothing to eat, no clothes to wear, no shoes on their feet, there are no beds in the house, no coal in the cellar, and winter is coming. |
| 11. False Analogy | -Students should be allowed to look at their textbooks during examinations. After all, surgeons have X-rays to guide them during an operation, lawyers have briefs to guide them during a trial, and carpenters have blueprints to guide them when they are building a house. Why, then, shouldn’t students be allowed to look at their textbooks during an examination.  - After all, you don’t have to eat a whole cake to know that it’s good.” |
| 12.  Hypothesis Contrary to Fact. | - If Madame Curie had not happened to leave a photographic plate in a drawer with a chunk of pitchblende, the world today would not know about radium.  - That’s right. So you do owe me something, don’t you, my dear? If I hadn’t come along you never would have learned about fallacies. |
| 13. Poisoning the Well | Two men are having a debate. The first one gets up and says, ‘My opponent is a notorious liar. You can’t believe a word that he is going to say. |