

FALLACY OF COMPOSITION, FALLACY OF DECOMPOSITION, AND POST HOC FALLACY WORKSHEET RUBRIC

by Dick Brunelle and Steven Reff
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Rubric for FR Fallacies of composition and decomposition.

1, Jim Bob asserts that because his team was the best team in Texas that meant that he was the best left offensive tackle. He cannot assert that because it is true his team was the best it means that he was the best at his position. That may or may not be true. It is an example of the Fallacy of decomposition. Faulty conclusion assumes that what is true of the whole (his team) is true of the part (Jim Bob).

2. Even if it were true that trade with China has been good for the United States (no proof is offered of this) one cannot assume that what is good for the economy of the United States is good for everyone in the economy. It is an example of decomposition.

3. Jim Bob assumes because marrying Betty Sue would not be good for him that it would not be good for anyone else. This is an example of the fallacy of composition. What is true of the part is true of the whole = invalid argument.

4. Jim Bob commits the paradox of thrift. He assumes that because savings a very large share of his income would be good for him, it would therefore be a good thing for everyone else to do. This is an example of the fallacy of composition.