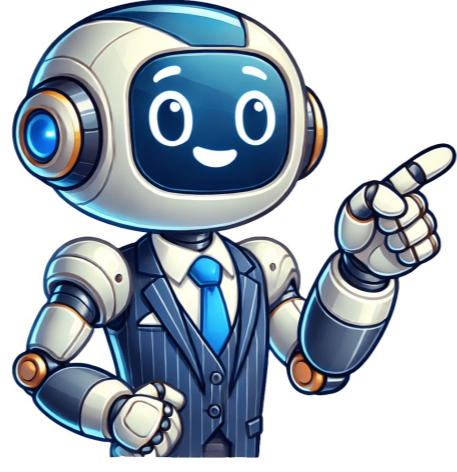


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conclusion that assumes that if 'A' occurred after 'B' then 'B' must have caused 'A.' Example: I drank bottled water and now I am sick. In this example, the author assumes that if one event chronologically follows another, it must have caused the second. But the illness could have been caused by the burrito the night before, a flu bug that had been working on the body for days, or a chemical spill across campus. There is no reason, without more evidence, to assume the water caused the person to be sick. Genetic Fallacy: This conclusion is based on an argument that the origins of a person, idea, institute, or theory determine its character, nature, or worth. Example: The Volkswagen Beetle is an evil car because it was originally designed by Hitler's army. In this example the author is equating the character of a car with the character of the people who built the car. However, the two are not inherently related. Begging the Claim: The conclusion that the writer should prove is validated within the claim. Example: Filthy and polluting coal should be banned. Arguing that coal pollutes the earth and thus should be banned would be logical. But the very conclusion that should be proved, that coal causes enough pollution to warrant banning its use, is already assumed in the claim by referring to it as "filthy and polluting." Circular Argument: This restates the argument rather than actually proving it. Example: George Bush is a good communicator because he speaks effectively. In this example, the conclusion that Bush is a "good communicator" and the evidence used to prove it "he speaks effectively" are basically the same idea. Specific evidence such as using everyday language, breaking down complex problems, or illustrating his points with humorous stories would be needed to prove either half of the sentence. Either/or: This is a conclusion that oversimplifies the argument by reducing it to only two sides or choices. Example: We can either stop using cars or destroy the earth. In this example, the two choices are presented as the only options, yet the author ignores a range of choices in between such as developing cleaner technology, car-sharing systems for necessities and emergencies, or better community planning to discourage daily driving. Ad hominem: This is an attack on the character of a person rather than his or her opinions or arguments. Example: Green Peace's strategies aren't effective because they are all dirty, lazy hippies. In this example, the author doesn't even name particular strategies Green Peace has suggested, much less evaluate those strategies on their merits. Instead, the author attacks the characters of the individuals in the group. Ad populum/Bandwagon Appeal: This is an appeal that presents what most people, or a group of people think, in order to persuade one to think the same way. Getting on the bandwagon is one such instance of an ad populum appeal. Example: If you were a true American you would support the rights of people to choose whatever vehicle they want. In this example, the author equates being a "true American," a concept that people want to be associated with, particularly in a time of war, with allowing people to buy any vehicle they want even though there is no inherent connection between the two. Red Herring: This is a diversionary tactic that avoids the key issues, often by avoiding opposing arguments rather than addressing them. Example: The level of mercury in seafood may be unsafe, but what will fishers do to support their families? In this example, the author switches the discussion away from the safety of the food and talks instead about an economic issue, the livelihood of those catching fish. While one issue may affect the other it does not mean we should ignore possible safety issues because of possible economic consequences to a few individuals. Straw Man: This move oversimplifies an opponent's viewpoint and then attacks that hollow argument. People who don't support the proposed state minimum wage increase hate the poor. In this example, the author attributes the worst possible motive to an opponent's position. In reality, however, the opposition probably has more complex and sympathetic arguments to support their point. By not addressing those arguments, the author is not treating the opposition with respect or refuting their position. Moral Equivalence: This fallacy compares minor misdeeds with major atrocities, suggesting that both are equally immoral. That parking attendant who gave me a ticket is as bad as Hitler. In this example, the author is comparing the relatively harmless actions of a person doing their job with the horrific actions of Hitler. This comparison is unfair and inaccurate. Jump to ratings and reviewsWhat are Logical Fallacies?Logical Fallacies are common errors in reasoning. It undermines the logic of the argument. Fallacies can be either illegitimate arguments or irrelevant point. Logical Fallacies are often identified because they lack evidence that supports their claim.Logical Fallacies can also be liken to having cheat codes for a video game. The cheat codes can help you to quickly beat the game. It is like having a short cut.It may be more time consuming and much more difficult to play a game without cheat codes. Similarly, as long as people don't know that you are cheating, you can be very persuasive in speech with logical fallacies.Although Logical Fallacies have faulty reasoning, it doesn't mean that it is not effective. It can actually be very effective and persuasive, especially to the untrained ear who is not familiar with Logical Fallacies.Watch out for these common fallacies in your own arguments and in the arguments of others.In this book, logical fallacies and some of its examples Slippery SlopeHasty GeneralizationPost Hoc Ergo Propter HocGenetic FallacyBegging the ClaimCircular ArgumentEither/OrAd HominemAd PopulumRed HerringStraw ManMoral Equivalence Get help and learn more about the design. Image not available forColor: To view this video download Flash Player tiger illustration with fallacy definition and example sentence Viktor HAURYLENKA / iStock / Getty Images Plus / via Getty created by YourDictionary Used under Getty Images license Fallacies are mistaken beliefs based on unsound arguments. They derive from reasoning that is logically incorrect, thus undermining an argument's validity. Explore the different types of fallacies you can find through examples. There are many different types of fallacies, and their variations are almost endless. Given their extensive nature, we've curated a list of common fallacies so you'll be able to develop sound conclusions yourself, and quickly identify fallacies in others' writings and speeches. Explore several common fallacies and examples. Ad Hominem, also known as attacking the person, fallacies occur when acceptance or rejection of a concept is rejected based on its source, not its merit. That face cream can't be good. Kim Kardashian is selling it. Don't listen to Dave's argument on gun control. He's not the brightest bulb in the chandelier. When you commit an appeal to authority fallacy, you accept a truth on blind faith just because someone you admire said it. Katherine loves Tom Cruise. One day, she meets Tom Cruise and he tells her unicorns live in New York City. Without searching to find out if fairy tales have sprung to life in midtown Manhattan, she believes it to be true. Princess Kate wears Alexander McQueen. Are you trying to say you have better fashion sense than a royal princess? Appeal to ignorance fallacies occur when someone asserts a claim that must be accepted because no one else can prove otherwise. People have been praying to God for years. No one can prove He doesn't exist. Therefore, He exists. Since the students have no questions concerning the topics discussed in class, the students are ready for a test. These fallacies occur when someone seeks to gain acceptance by pointing out an unfortunate consequence that befalls them. I know we don't love each other. But, if we don't get married it will crush my mother. You know she has a weak heart. Do you really want to do that to her? If we don't adopt that puppy today, they might put him down. Do you want to be responsible for that? You might have jumped on the bandwagon before. Well, bandwagon fallacies occur when a proposition is claimed to be true or good solely because many people believe it to be so. Everyone on campus is wearing Air Jordans. I need to buy those sneakers. All my friends are doing a low-carb diet. That must be the only way to lose weight. Begging the question, also called circular reasoning, is a type of fallacy that occurs when the conclusion of an argument is assumed in the phrasing of the question itself. If aliens didn't steal my newspaper, who did? I have a right to free speech so I can say what I want and you shouldn't try to stop me. You'll see these fallacies happen when it is assumed that, because two things occur together, they must be related. People who eat oatmeal have healthy hearts. Roosters crow before sunrise. Therefore, roosters cause the sun to rise. In false analogy fallacies, you make an assumption about two things that are alike. Because they are alike in one respect, it is assumed they are alike in another. People and watches are both complex. Therefore, they both must be the product of complex design. Tigers and lions are ruthless killers. House cats must also be ruthless killers. False dilemma fallacies occur when someone is only given two choices for possible alternatives when more than two exist. In Latin America, only two countries offer travel and tourism options: Mexico and Guatemala. Katie is one of 16,400 students on her college campus. The only boys worth dating are Dave and Steve. If you've ever been accused of jumping to conclusions, then you've committed a hasty generalization. This type of informal generalization makes an assumption based on a small sample and can lead to stereotypes. My brother eats cheeseburgers and pizza. He is thin. Cheeseburgers and pizza aren't the cause of obesity. Four out of five doctors recommend "Heal" brand lotion for patients. It must be the best. These fallacies occur when it is assumed that, because one thing happened after another, it must have occurred as a result of it. Right when I sneezed, the power went off. I must've caused the outage. Mary wore her favorite necklace today and aced her spelling test. That necklace must be lucky. A red herring fallacy occurs when someone uses irrelevant information to distract from the argument. How is talking about vaccinations going to help us find a cure for cancer? There are starving children in Africa. Eat your carrots. You might see a slippery slope fallacy when someone assumes a very small action will lead to extreme outcomes. If we allow our 14-year-old to have her first date tonight, what's next? A wedding, kids? If we teach Tommy how to drive the car, he'll want to learn how to fly helicopters next! A straw man fallacy happens when someone appears to be refuting the original point made but is actually arguing a point that wasn't initially made. President Trump doesn't have middle-class Americans in mind. He's part of the upper echelon of America. "We should be doing more to make cars greener and more fuel-efficient." "Our cities are built for cars, do you want to affect the economy?" A sweeping generalization happens when a very broad application is applied to a single premise. Dogs are good pets. Coyotes are dogs. Therefore, coyotes are good pets. Divorce is rampant in America. We only stand a 50 percent chance of survival. Therefore, we can't get married. Now that you've examined some common errors in reasoning, you'll be better equipped to recognize them when they come your way. In your future writings or debates, this will serve as a guidepost to make sure you don't fall into similar trappings. Since you've discovered all there is to fallacy, it's time to learn to write an argumentative essay!