

## **PARTIAL LIST OF LOGICAL FALLACIES**

APPEAL TO PITY: "I DESERVE AN 'A' ON EXAM BECAUSE I NEED IT TO GET INTO MEDICAL SCHOOL."

APPEAL TO AUTHORITY: "ASPARTAME IS SAFE BECAUSE THE FDA SAYS SO."

APPEAL TO FORCE: "YOU SHOULD MAJOR IN BUSINESS BECAUSE I AM PAYING FOR YOUR COLLEGE."

APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE (CONSENSUS): "NADER IS NOT CREDIBLE BECAUSE PEOPLE DIDN'T VOTE FOR HIM."

APPEAL TO IGNORANCE: "CELL PHONES ARE SAFE BECAUSE NO ONE HAS PROVED THEM HARMFUL."

BIFURCATION: "YOU SHOULD BURY THE HAZARDOUS WASTES BECAUSE IT IS UNSAFE TO BURN THEM."

SPECIAL PLEADING: "MARY IS PUSHY, BUT JOHN IS STRONG." "PROFESSOR KULPA AND MRS. SHRADER-FRECHETTE ARE THE TEACHERS."

AD HOMINEM: "YOU CAN'T TRUST THIS DRUG BECAUSE THE PHARMACIST IS ONLY TRYING TO MAKE MONEY."

COMPLEX QUESTION: "ARE YOU STILL DUMPING TOXIC WASTES IN YOUR BACKYARD?"

BEGGING THE QUESTION: "ABORTION IS WRONG BECAUSE IT IS MURDER." "ABORTION IS OK BECAUSE WOMEN HAVE RIGHTS OVER THEIR BODIES."

STRAW MAN: "BIOLOGICAL PEST CONTROL IS UNDESIRABLE BECAUSE SOMETIMES CHEMICALS ARE NEEDED."

IRRELEVANT THESIS: "BIOLOGICAL PEST CONTROL IS UNSOUND BECAUSE IT DESTROYS ONLY SOME PESTS."

FALSE CAUSE: "GIVEN ITS ANTHROPOCENTRISM, CHRISTIAN ETHICS HAS CAUSED ENVIRONMENTAL HARM."

FALSE ANALOGY: "IF YOU TRAVEL BY AUTOMOBILE, THERE IS NO REASON TO OPPOSE NUCLEAR POWER."

DENYING THE ANTECEDENT “IF THE EMPLOYER RATES WOMEN LOWER THAN MEN, THEN HE IS SEXIST. But HE DID NOT RATE WOMEN LOWER THAN MEN, SO HE IS NOT SEXIST.”

AFFIRMING THE CONSEQUENT “IF THE EMPLOYER RATES WOMEN LOWER THAN MEN, THEN HE IS SEXIST. BUT HE IS SEXIST, SO HE WILL RATE WOMEN LOWER THAN MEN.”

HASTY GENERALIZATION: “NO WOMEN ARE GOOD AT MATH.”

COMPOSITION: “BUSES USE MORE FUEL THAN CARS. THEREFORE THE US SHOULD USE AUTOS, NOT BUSES.”

DIVISION: “AGGREGATE EMPLOYMENT DATA SHOW A COMPENSATING WAGE DIFFERENTIAL (CWD) FOR RISKY JOBS. THEREFORE MINORITIES WHO WISH MORE PAY SHOULD TAKE RISKY JOBS.”

AMPHIBOLY: “SHOOTING INTO THE CROWD, THE ENVIRONMENTALIST STOPPED THE MURDERER.”

EQUIVOCATION: “INCREASING ENERGY PRODUCTION BRINGS ECONOMIC PROGRESS; ECONOMIC PROGRESS IS NECESSARY; THEREFORE

INCREASING ENERGY PRODUCTION IS NECESSARY. ”ACCENT: “THE LEACHING OF THE DIOXIN WILL CAUSE NO FATALITIES.”“THE LEACHING OF THE DIOXIN WILL CAUSE NO FATALITIES.”

FIVE LOGICAL CRITERIA: ASSUMPTIONS, CONSEQUENCES, CONSISTENCY, COMPLETENESS, COHERENCE