

Logical Fallacies

A logical fallacy simply means that the reasoning behind an argument is inaccurate. Fallacies often occur when persuasion is present. For example, if an individual has claimed a side regarding a debatable or controversial topic, they can use one of the many fallacies (intentionally or unintentionally) to expedite the persuasive process in the hopes that listeners will adopt their argument regarding that topic. While there are many types of fallacies that exist, below you will find a list of some of the more popular ones used in argumentation and debate.

Ad Hominem Fallacy

This is when a speaker criticizes the person they're opposing rather than the ideas they present. They remove criticism from the conversation or debate and it becomes a personal attack.

Bandwagon Fallacy

We've all heard, "...because everyone's doing it." This argument removes all reason and relies on the fact that a number of other individuals are making this choice, therefore it is a just choice.

Red Herring Fallacy

A speaker will bring irrelevant or unrelated arguments in to the discussion or debate in an attempt to distract the opposition/audience from the discussion at hand.

Straw Man Fallacy

Arguments are placed strategically within a debate or conversation in a way that makes it easy to 'tear down.' An individual will use this strategy to make an argument appear weaker than it actually is.

Slippery Slope Fallacy

This argument asserts that one small action or belief will inevitably lead to a series of other larger and more harmful actions or beliefs.

Hasty Generalization Fallacy

'Jumping to conclusions' is made easy with hasty generalizations. This is where a speaker will form a specific conclusion without considering all of the variables involved.

Either/Or Fallacy

A speaker will use this fallacy when thinking of the world in 'black or white' terms. If not A then the solution *must* be B. This allows for no flexibility in problem-solving and deriving a collaborative conclusion.

Begging the Question

This fallacy surfaces when the premise (leading arguments) include the claim that the conclusion is true (directly or indirectly) assume that the conclusion is true. In this context, ‘beg’ means to avoid not ask.