

Common Logical Fallacies

1. Attacking the person- going after your opponent's character instead of actually interacting with their argument.

Christian: “Well, I actually think I have good reasons for my faith.”

Neighbor: “That's because you have been brainwashed by the church for your entire life. You cannot even think properly.”

2. False Cause-presuming a causal relationship between two things, one causes the other.

Seth: “Man, I can not believe that I moved to Brandenburg and there is all this snow.”

Jim Wedding: “We never had snow until you moved to town. You must have brought it with you.”

3. Loaded Question-a question that unfairly forces the other person to answer in a way that makes them look guilty (“When did you stop beating your wife?”)

Neighbor: “Are you Christians ever going to stop judging people?”

4. Either/Or Fallacy-trying to force another individual to adopt one of two options as if there are no other options.

Neighbor: “Either God is powerless to stop evil or is unloving and refuses to stop evil. Which is it?”

5. Strawman-unfairly misrepresenting the other side to make it easier to defeat.

Neighbor: “Believing in Jesus is like believing in Santa Clause. And we all know that's foolish!”

Neighbor: “If you do not believe the science, then you are a science denier!”

6. Bandwagon-claiming something to be true just because the majority of people believe in it.

Neighbor: “You Christians should be supportive of gay marriage. The whole culture is against you. You are going to be on the wrong side of history.”

7. Slippery slope-assuming the worse consequence (Z) if we allow something else (A)

Church Curmudgeon: “If we say that it is okay for people to attend church without a tie, then people will just show up in scanty clothing!”

8. Begging the Question-you assume what you are trying to prove, also called circular reasoning.

Seth: “You can count on me because I am a trustworthy guy.”

Neighbor: “How do I know that you are a trustworthy guy?”

Seth: “Because you can count on me!”

9. Appeal to Authority-trusting sources even if they fail to have the proper credentials.

Neighbor: "I like buying Lego Waffles because Larry Bird highly endorses them!"

Bill Clinton/Life Begins at Breath

10. Argument from Silence-assumes the support of evidence even if the source is silent

Neighbor: "Jesus definitely would be oppose to capital punishment! Look what happened to him!"