

Fun With Fallacies

15 ways we all fail to make sound arguments



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Ad hominem/ genetic

I don't care if she is the governor of the state! Her taxation ideas are far too extreme. How can we trust anything she says if she advocates taxes of that nature?



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**Wishful
thinking**

Sure, I've heard that it's better to not eat cheeseburgers every day, but it's extra protein and protein is good for you.



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**“Argument”
from popularity**

“Come on, everyone knows that the government has lied to us in the past. This case isn’t any different.”



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**Hasty
generalizing**

My friend, who goes to college online, said students from that online college are ignorant about life. That girl we just met, Tracy, goes to that college, so I don't trust anything she says.



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**“Argument”
from outrage**

From one mom to another: “I can’t believe Shelia lets her kids go online and watch that garbage! I always knew she wasn’t very strict. Now our kids will be over there watching that junk, too!”



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**Straw
man**

From one politician about another: “He’s a two-faced, liberal, anti-family, and antigod liar!”



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Post hoc

If it weren't for the president's energy policy, we wouldn't be dealing with these oil spills.



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**Red herring/
smokescreen**

From a teenager confronted by his parent about wrecking the family vehicle: “Why do we have to keep harping on this accident thing? Let’s talk about that A grade I’m getting in algebra.”



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**Group
think**

It's disgraceful that a member of our church would go out to fast food restaurants every night. Christians believe in family values, including home-cooked meals.



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Scare tactics

On a radio ad: Have you been fatigued, irritable, moody? If these symptoms are ignored, you might become depressed or even suicidal! Ward off the blues by taking a pill proven to cheer you up. Millions of people have, and they're glad they did!



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**Poisoning
the well**

You're having lunch at the market? Well, that is OK, but I hear the market has been targeted by a terrorist. I'd be careful if I were you.



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**Apple
polishing**

It takes someone with a really big heart to give to our charity, and you seem like someone who cares more than most.



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**Guilt
trip**

**Stomachache or not,
how could you not eat
your dinner after I spent
all that time making it!**



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Perfectionist fallacy

About an already-attractive home interior: I don't know why we started this home renovation if we're only doing two of the rooms. Either way, it won't look right unless we redo the entire house.



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Inconsistency ad
hominem

From a Bible study group member:
“I just don’t get it. One minute she
says she’s coming, and then the
next, she calls to cancel. I wonder if
we can trust that the ideas she
offers us here at our Bible study.”



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- There are many more fallacies we could look at. This gives you a little taste of how readily we all can fall into making arguments that do not hold up well under scrutiny. May you all become very good writers whose thoughts cannot be challenged!!



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