

Logical Fallacies

Fallacy Name	Description	Example
Ad Hominem	Attacking the person making the argument rather than the argument itself.	"You can't trust John's opinion on climate change because he's not a scientist."
Straw Man	Misrepresenting someone's argument to make it easier to attack.	"Vegetarians say no one should eat meat, but humans have always eaten meat, so their argument is invalid."
Appeal to Ignorance	Asserting a proposition is true because it hasn't been proven false (or vice versa).	"No one has proven that aliens don't exist, so they must be real."
False Dilemma	Presenting two options as the only possibilities when more exist.	"You're either with us or against us."
Slippery Slope	Arguing that a small first step will inevitably lead to a chain of related events culminating in some significant impact.	"If we allow students to redo assignments, soon they'll expect to retake entire courses."
Circular Reasoning	The reasoner begins with what they are trying to end with; the conclusion is included in the premise.	"I'm trustworthy because I always tell the truth."
Hasty Generalization	Making a broad claim based on limited evidence.	"My two friends got food poisoning at that restaurant; it must be unsafe."
Red Herring	Introducing irrelevant information to distract from the actual issue.	"Why worry about the environment when there are people unemployed?"
Bandwagon Appeal	Arguing something is true or right because it's popular.	"Everyone is investing in this stock; it must be a good choice."
Appeal to Authority	Believing a claim is true because an authority figure endorses it, regardless of their expertise in the subject.	"A famous actor says this diet works, so it must be effective."
Post Hoc Ergo Propter Hoc	Assuming that because one event followed another, it was also caused by it.	"I wore my lucky socks, and we won the game; the socks must be the reason we won."
Begging the Question	The argument's premise assumes the truth of the conclusion instead of supporting it.	"Reading is beneficial because it's good for you."
False Analogy	Making a comparison between two things that aren't truly comparable.	"Employees are like nails; just as nails must be hit to work, so must employees."