

Worksheet 9/1/2023

Some common types of fallacy:

Name	Pattern
Appeal to popularity	Many people believe that A is true. Therefore, A is true.
False cause	A happens before B. Therefore, A causes B.
Appeal to ignorance	There is no proof that A is true. Therefore, A is false.
Hasty generalization	A and B are linked one or a few times. Therefore, A causes B.
Limited choice	A is false, so only B is true.
Appeal to emotion	A can make somebody feel good. Therefore, A is true.
Personal attack	A is claimed by someone whom I have a problem with. Therefore, A is false.
Circular reasoning	A is true because A is true.
Diversion	A is related to B and B is true. Therefore, A is true.
Straw man	Person A distorts Person B's argument and attack the distorted argument as if B made that argument.

In the following arguments, *identify the premise(s) and conclusion, explain why the argument is deceptive, and, if possible, identify the type/pattern of fallacy it represents.* Note that a fallacy can fall into more than one type or may not fall into any of the types above.

1. The Volkswagen Beetle is an evil car because it was originally designed by Hitler's army.
2. George Bush is a good communicator because he speaks effectively.
3. We can either stop using cars or destroy the earth.
4. If you were a true American, you would support the rights of people to choose whatever vehicle they want.
5. Smoking must be safe because millions of people have been doing it for years.

6. The level of mercury in seafood may be unsafe, but what will fishers do to support their families?

7. People who don't support the proposed state minimum wage increase hate the poor.

8. You must read Harry Potter because it is a bestseller book.

9. Every time I bring my umbrella with me, it rains. Clearly, if I leave it at home, there will be sunshine!

10. There is no water on Mars because astronauts find no water on it.

11. We surveyed all the customers in the store and they all agreed that staying open 24 hours would be a great idea. We need to put together a 24-hour schedule as soon as possible.

12. A local politician plans to expand the municipality's cycle network and to add several new speed cameras in densely populated areas. Their opponent says, "They want us all to give up driving forever. They're punishing the honest car owners and commuters that help pay these politicians' salaries."

13. **Alex:** I think that we should reconsider the way that the government distributes the federal budget.
Bob: If you can't be loyal and support the way your government chooses to use taxes, then you should just leave the country and move somewhere else.