

Worksheet 10/7/2024

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 can be true.
Appeal to emotion	Convincing by evoking feelings rather than providing evidence
Personal attack	Attack a person's character or traits in an attempt to undermine their argument
Circular reasoning	The evidence used to support a claim is just a repetition of the claim itself.
Diversion	Redirect a conversation away from its original topic
Straw man	Weaker version of an argument is attacked while stronger ones are ignored.

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 possess guns.
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 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.

14. Politician arguing to raise tax: "We need more revenue to support the programs that we have. Children are our future. Let's support children."

15. **Person A:** We should make some regulations surrounding plastic bags since they are causing a lot of damage to the environment.
Person B: So, you want to ban all plastic bags and make it impossible for people to carry things? That's ridiculous!