

Phil. 103: Introduction to Logic

Class Exercise: Fallacies of Relevance

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Directions: Identify the informal fallacies in the following passages. Choose from the fallacies of *ad ignorantiam*, *ad verecundiam*, *ad hominem*, *ad populum*, *ad misericordiam*, and *ad baculum*.

1. Betty Ainsley, one of the greatest artists of our generation, has maintained that in the next fifty years a significant proportion of new births will be cloned babies. We cannot afford to ignore this conclusion of such a well respected and widely known figure.
2. No one has succeeded in proving beyond doubt that unidentified flying objects are visitations from other planets. Therefore, the conclusion is inescapable: UFOs do not exist.
3. Fellow workers, the management has put forward patiently and clearly their arguments for the reduction of wages during the next year. I am sure that you will agree with their reasoning since you surely do not want to expose yourself to the unfortunate consequences which will result if you choose to disagree with them.
4. The Hollywood Actor's Guild has endorsed the all-new Memory Mega-Series Development Kit manufactured by Idotic Enterprises. Since this prestigious organization thinks so highly of the kit, I believe it is worth a try for struggling salespersons.
5. When the executive officer sets forward her reasons for the change in marketing policies, the employee is expected to recognize their worth. If employees do not see the the executive officer's reasoning, then they need to look for employment elsewhere.
6. A good deal of intensive research over the past two decades has absolutely revealed no conclusive evidence that the National Security Agency has been wiretapping the members of the Underground Students Network. Clearly, if this governmental agency had been doing so, some information would have been unearthed by now.

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7. The late Richard J. Stephens, the former Chairman of the Board of the International Nuclear Industry Associates, wrote extensively about the safety of nuclear power plants in his often-cited posthumous work, *The Promise of Nuclear Energy for the 21st Century*. However, on that basis, I genuinely doubt, given his occupational background, his book can be regarded as entirely unbiased.
 8. Gosh, Dr. Matrix, I know I am failing your math class, but I have studied with much more diligence than the other students. I think I deserve a passing grade because I have worked longer and harder than you recommended in your syllabus. For these reasons, I shouldn't be objectified as an *F* student.
 9. Professor Higgens, history professor *emeritus* at University of the Southwest, asserts that adequate evidence exists to conclude that President Roosevelt knew in advance when the Japanese were to attack Pearl Harbor, and he chose not to alert the troops in the Pacific because he desperately sought to incite the American public to support a declaration of war against Japan. Such a castigation of President Roosevelt is absurd and patently anti-American.
 10. It's not a good idea to criticize the present administration in Uzbekistan unless you feel sure you can survive being intensively audited by the revenue service
 11. Kline's argument concerning the pervasiveness of corruption and influence-peddling during the last term of the Nixon administration cannot be relied upon because Kline has been an integral part of the Democratic Party apparatus in many of the Northeastern states for a good many years.
 12. This is simply not fair. Unless I receive a *C* in statistics, I'll not only lose my state scholarship, but my GPA will drop below that required for law school. Professor Jones, my lack-luster performance is no reason to destroy my future and dash my hope to follow in my father's footsteps.
 13. I think this quiz is more than fair enough, and I think you will agree with me on that point because if you don't think so, your grade in the course will most certainly be in jeopardy.
 14. Judy has to work forty hours a week on top of supporting her parents after her father lost his job in the oil industry. She's spent all of her free time studying and has worked especially hard on her math course. So I think you'll see that she deserved to pass with at least a *C* in the course.
 15. I believe that my proposals are quite sound, and I think you will believe that they are good, especially when you see the personal benefits which will accrue if you support them.