

Phil. 103: Introduction to Logic

Class Exercise: Fallacies of Presumption

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Directions: Identify the informal fallacies in the following passages. Choose from the fallacies of complex question, false cause, *petitio principii*, accident, and converse accident.

1. Studying a subject too much and in too much depth is often confusing for the reason that when you study so much and so intensively the main points of the subject are no longer clear.
2. Studies have shown that people who attend sports events regularly suffer more cardiac arrests on the average than those people who do not attend regularly. Thus, we can confidently conclude that regular attendance at sports events is a important factor producing poor cardiac health.
3. Even though Bob Smith worked long and hard hours on the corporate summer progress report, the chairman of the finance committee showed that Smith's efforts amounted to a superficial presentation. It's obvious that Bob just can't be relied upon to produce adequate reports.
4. How can the nation cover rising health care costs, pass legislation for lower taxes for our citizens, support our armed forces for a strong national defense, protect the farmer from high interest rates and rising fuel costs, and simplify the bewildering array of interstate commerce laws? It's obvious that major the political parties can't do this—there's only one viable solution, vote Independent in the next election.
5. Reporters for the national media have pointed out that at one time or another Richard Nixon, Lyndon Johnson, and Bill Clinton all met with major corporate lobbyists in their Washington offices before they became President. It's a foregone conclusion of these news stories that all politicians at one time or another fall under the spell of these influence peddlers.
6. Much as the result of civil rights legislation over the past fifty years, the laws of the United States clearly oppose discrimination on the basis of race, gender, or religious belief. For this reason, the Greenwood Women's Book Club as well as the Greenwood Men's Garden Club should prove to be illegal organizations.

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7. There can be no doubt that women are better poets than men because they uniformly write better poetry than men do and men plainly do not write poetry as well.
 8. I can see that you are greatly impressed with this logic course and all the new ideas you are learning. Therefore, are you going to sign up for scientific reasoning or symbolic logic next semester? Either one or both would be fine.
 9. George H. Wendelmyer, the Nobel Prize winning chemist, became a great researcher because in his early childhood, his parents and his teachers felt that he wouldn't amount to much. Had they nagged him to study science, he never would have developed a life-long interest in the molecular forces of nature.
 10. When I visited New York last summer, several persons spoke to me as I was standing on the sidewalk hailing a taxi. As this incident proves, New Yorkers should advertise their city as the friendliest city on the East coast.
 11. I realize that Representative Howard Duggan denies that he misappropriated funds from Federal Commerce Committee, and I don't find his denial that surprising. After all, he has repeatedly refused to answer the question as to whether he pocketed those funds for his own private purposes or used the illegally obtained funds to help finance his wife's campaign for the local school board.
 12. All citizens of this great nation are guaranteed equal rights and are protected by civil right legislation passed by Congress and signed into law by the President of the United States. Therefore, any citizen, regardless of age or SAT score, or any other factor, has the equal right of attending this university.
 13. As a daughter when I was four, my father taught me the beauty of numbers, and I have excelled at mathematics ever since. My conclusion on why females do not score as high on math tests is that the males with a high aptitude for mathematics are not spending enough time with their daughters.
 14. I know of several art students who were forced to take freshman algebra who dropped out of college. Obviously, being forced to take algebra resulted in their losing interest in continuing their higher education.
 15. If you think about it carefully, you will realize that no one and no circumstance can prevent you from becoming a self-understanding person. After all, who is stopping you at this very moment? No one.
 16. The programs of the Fair Play for Animals Committee are sound and thoughtful policies for the improvement of our National Parks and have been endorsed by the Federal Wildlife Conservancy Project. The endorsement by the Federal Wildlife Conservancy Project is known to be a reliable

recommendation because the Fair Play for Animals Committee has backed the Conservancy since its inception.

17. Statistical data drawn from the U. S. Census Bureau's Census 2000 data show that counties in southeastern United States have on the average the highest per capita murder rates in the nation. These data also show that these same counties have the highest per capita members of religious fundamentalist churches. Consequently, the deep and strict adherence to basic principles and the resulting intolerance represented by prevalent attitudes endemic to these areas contribute to higher rates of violence.
18. If there is one rule that all children should follow it's "Honesty is the best policy." Moral rules have no exceptions. So when any adult not known to the child asks a child at home if her parents are there and the child does not tell the truth when responding, "Yes, but they cannot come to the door right now," then the child should be punished for violating this fundamental moral rule.
19. Last Saturday morning I went to the library to work on my psychology term theme. The library was closed. I can't see how instructors at this university can expect us to get our research done when the library is never open when you need it.
20. The Department of Education is puzzled by all of the criticism of the current K-12 policies instituted over the past twenty years in this state. After all, are these critics opposed to the educational programs that produced the workforce achieving the largest increase in scientific advancement and expansion of business and industry since the American Revolution? It's difficult to see how a return to old, outdated policies would be an improvement.